

Public attitudes toward crime and criminal justice-related topics

Twenty-five years ago, the founding editor of the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, Michael Hindelang, wrote of the value of public opinion data on crime and criminal justice topics. He observed that public opinion polls provided a “running historical record of changes in the stance of the public regarding matters central to criminal justice.” In addition to establishing the historical record, Hindelang argued that results of carefully conducted opinion surveys may “foreshadow impending popular pressure for legislative changes in criminal justice.” No one who has observed legislative debates about crime policy in the 1990s doubts the importance that lawmakers and public officials ascribe to the public “mood” or “will” on crime matters. This is because many opinion analysts have observed that citizens’ attitudes about the nature of the crime problem and the *causes* of crime are directly linked to public attitudes about criminal justice *policy*. For example, changes in the public attitudes about causes of crime, from older notions of social causes such as poverty, economic deprivation, and others, to more recent views that crime is a free choice of rational offenders, is associated with a marked increase in support for more punitive approaches to dealing with offenders. In addition to these uses of public opinion surveys, political scientists argue that such information helps move issues onto the active policy agenda that demands governmental action, and also sets the boundaries within which policy alternatives are examined.

In contrast to the value of public opinion data within political and policy spheres, criminologists have been guarded in including public attitudes as part of their research agenda. Some argue that the public is uninformed, or ill-informed about crime and justice. Others contend that public opinion is volatile and subject to gross manipulation by media coverage of selected crimes. On the former objection, Leslie Wilkins, one of *Sourcebook’s* early advisory board members, reminded us that issues of crime and justice are within a “class of question(s) where knowledge relating to the subject matter is of no importance. These are questions of moral values, attitudes and opinions. . . . meaningful questions about fairness, punishment, and the products required of the social system (including the criminal justice system) do not require knowledge.” On the matter of instability of public opinion, experts now agree that the public

requires time to work through important issues, so periodic shifts in attitudes may represent genuine consideration of complex issues by the citizenry.

Tracing public opinion about crime and justice through a quarter-century of *Sourcebooks* and other sources reveals some issues on which the public mind has changed definitively, and others on which attitudes have been remarkably stable. For example, Americans’ attitudes about key concerns such as fear of crime, perceptions of the crime problem, evaluations of the criminal justice system (especially the police), the role of government funding in fighting crime, gun control and regulation, and drug policy have oscillated only slightly around long-term stable trends. Foremost among these are the so-called “75 percent solutions”: for many years about three quarters of Americans have favored requiring a police permit to purchase a gun, capital punishment for convicted murderers, and more severe sentencing of offenders as a response to crime. An example of an issue on which opinion has shifted is in the legalization of certain forms of drugs such as marijuana; where 25 years ago there was broad support for decriminalization and lenient sentencing of these lesser drug offenses, attitudes have hardened considerably in recent years.

Another impressive characteristic of Americans’ attitudes about crime and justice is that they are pragmatic and often multidimensional. For example, Americans clearly favor sending criminals to prison (and for long terms in the case of serious felony offenders), but simultaneously support the provision of education, training, substance abuse treatment, and work skills programs within prisons. Thus punitive attitudes about dealing with criminals are coupled with practical understanding that prison inmates will eventually be released back to the community.

Two conclusions seem clear about the role of public opinion in crime and justice matters, and both conclusions underscore the wisdom of Michael Hindelang’s observations. First, the American criminal justice system has indeed changed in 25 years, and the direction of those changes has been fueled and foretold by public opinion surveys. Research by political scientists consistently finds a close correspondence between State-level policy and public opinion across a wide range of issues, so the influence of public opinion is likely to remain strong. This means that we will see continued support for longer prison terms for serious offenders, support for earlier intervention with troubled youth, efforts to

reduce the costs and delay of judicial processing, and a continuation of support for a “tougher” but treatment-providing correctional system. Second, public opinion on crime and justice will remain consequential because crime and justice are salient and important concerns of Americans, because these issues are deeply embedded in ideological doctrines that guide Americans’ thinking, because Americans have very high expectations for the criminal justice system, and because our political leaders will remain highly responsive to citizen views about our most critical domestic policy issue.

Section 2 of the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics* has served an important function in the documentation of Americans’ attitudes about crime and justice for the past 25 years. Historians will find this section an important source about our recent past, just as contemporary students of crime consider it an invaluable resource about our future.

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Table 2.1

Attitudes toward the most important problem facing the country

United States, 1982-98

Question: "What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?"

	Oct. 15-18, 1982	Oct. 7-10, 1983	Feb. 10-13, 1984	Jan. 25-28, 1985	July 11-14, 1986	Apr. 10-13, 1987	Sept. 9-11, 1988	May 4-7, 1989	Nov. 9-12, 1989	Apr. 5-8, 1990	July 19-22, 1990	Mar. 7-10, 1991	Mar. 26-29, 1992	Jan. 8-11, 1993	Jan. 15-17, 1994	Aug. 15-16, 1994	Jan. 16-18, 1995	May 9-12, 1996	Jan. 10-13, 1997	Apr. 17-19, 1998
High cost of living; inflation; taxes	18%	12%	10%	11%	4%	5%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	6%	3%	4%	3%	7%	11%	6%	7%
Unemployment	61	41	29	20	23	13	9	6	3	3	3	8	25	22	18	6	15	13	NA	5
International problems; foreign affairs	2	7	11	NA	NA	NA	4	4	3	NA	NA	1	3	8	3	4	2	4	3	4
Crime; violence	3	5	4	4	3	3	2	6	3	2	1	2	5	9	37	52	27	25	23	20
Fear of war/nuclear war; international tensions	3	14	11	27	22	23	5	2	1	1	1	2	NA	NA	NA	(a)	(a)	NA	NA	NA
Ethics, moral, family decline	3	5	7	2	3	5	1	5	3	1	2	2	5	7	8	7	6	14	9	16
Excessive government spending; Federal budget deficit	4	4	12	18	13	11	12	7	7	6	21	8	8	13	5	3	14	15	8	5
Dissatisfaction with government	3	2	2	NA	NA	5	NA	2	1	1	1	NA	8	5	6	5	5	12	7	8
Economy (general)	11	4	5	6	7	10	12	8	7	7	7	24	42	35	14	17	10	12	21	6
Poverty; hunger; homeless	NA	NA	NA	6	6	5	7	10	10	11	7	10	15	15	11	5	10	7	10	10
Drugs; drug abuse	NA	NA	NA	2	8	11	11	27	38	30	18	11	8	6	9	9	6	10	17	12
Trade deficit; trade relations	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
Education; quality of education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	2	1	2	2	8	8	7	5	5	13	10	13
Environment; pollution	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	3	8	5	2	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	2
AIDS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	1	2	(a)	3	2	2	2	1	(a)	1	1
Abortion	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(a)	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	0	1	1
Health care	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	18	20	29	12	10	7	6
No opinion; don't know	2	4	4	3	3	4	12	7	6	9	5	6	2	2	2	2	2	7	6	4

Note: Exact wording of response categories varies across surveys. Multiple responses are possible; the Source records up to three problems per respondent. Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents are not included in the table. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 198, p. 27; Report No. 226, p. 17; Report No. 235, pp. 20, 21; Report No. 252, pp. 28, 29; Report No. 260, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 277, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 285, pp. 4, 5; Report No. 290, p. 6 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll*, Mar. 14, 1991, pp. 2, 3; Apr. 3, 1992, pp. 1, 2; Jan. 30, 1997, p. 2; May 5, 1998, pp. 2, 3 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 298, p. 14; No. 340, p. 43; No. 352, p. 7 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

^aLess than 0.5%.

Table 2.2

Attitudes toward important issues for the government to address

United States, 1993-98

Question: "What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?"

Issue	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Federal deficit	11%	11%	18%	22%	19%	12%
Health care	55	30	16	16	9	11
Crime/violence	12	37	16	16	17	13
The economy ^a	13	12	10	14	6	9
Education	8	10	9	14	14	14
Welfare	3	9	12	13	12	8
Taxes	11	14	11	11	11	16
Employment/jobs	14	10	6	9	6	3
Programs for the elderly	3	4	7	6	2	1
Domestic/social issues ^a	8	5	5	4	3	3
Drugs	3	3	5	4	8	6
Abortion	2	2	2	4	3	2
Medicare ^b	X	X	14	3	4	5
Foreign policy ^a	3	4	4	3	4	5
Peace/world peace/nuclear arms	3	1	2	3	2	3
Homelessness ^c	X	X	4	3	4	4
(Programs for) the poor	3	7	3	2	2	2

Note: The issues mentioned are spontaneous, unprompted replies by the respondents. The numbers indicate the percent of respondents who mentioned the item as one of the top two issues for the government to address. Some issues mentioned by a relatively small percentage of respondents have been omitted. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aNon-specific.

^bPreviously coded under "programs for the elderly."

^cPreviously coded under "programs for the poor."

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll*, Apr. 10, 1996, p. 3; June 16, 1997, p. 6; Jan. 23, 1998, p. 8 (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc.). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.3

Households identifying crime as a neighborhood problem

By household characteristics, United States, selected years 1985-95

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"

(Percent saying "crime")

Type of household	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995
All households	4.7%	4.8%	6.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%
White	4.0	3.8	5.1	6.0	6.1	6.1
Black	8.5	11.0	15.4	16.5	15.2	14.4
Hispanic ^a	7.7	8.4	11.2	12.1	12.2	11.5
Elderly	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.4	4.3	4.1
<u>Place of residence</u>						
Central city	9.1	9.7	13.1	15.0	14.8	14.5
Suburban	2.9	2.9	3.9	4.6	4.8	4.9
Rural	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2
<u>Home ownership</u>						
Owner	3.1	2.9	3.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Renter	7.4	8.0	11.3	12.3	12.3	12.1
<u>Type of structure</u>						
One-unit detached ^b	3.1	2.8	3.7	4.6	4.7	4.8
Multiunit	8.6	9.5	12.8	13.9	13.9	13.5
<u>Number of households (in millions)^c</u>	86.8	88.8	91.5	91.0	92.8	95.0

Note: These data are from the American Housing Survey, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The survey collects data on many factors related to housing, including residential perceptions of neighborhood quality. These estimates are derived from national data that are collected every other year from a fixed representative sample of 50,000 housing units plus a sample of newly constructed units each year. The Source excludes missing data and those occupied units not considered in a neighborhood, ranging from 1% to 4% of units in subpopulations. The respondent defines the neighborhood.

^aIncludes persons from all races.^bExcludes row houses and mobile homes.^cThe estimates for total number of households reporting they live in a neighborhood in 1991, 1993, and 1995 are based on the 1990 census and are not directly comparable to prior-year estimates that are based on the 1980 census.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime, 1995*, Special Report NCJ-165811 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, April 1998), p. 2, Table 1.

Table 2.4

Households identifying crime as a neighborhood problem

By type of housing structure, United States, selected years 1985-95

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"

(Percent saying "crime")

Type of structure and household	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995
<u>One-unit detached structures^a</u>						
All households	3.1%	2.8%	3.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%
White	2.8	2.3	3.1	3.9	4.1	4.1
Black	5.9	6.9	9.5	12.1	10.8	10.6
All central city households	6.2	6.2	8.4	10.8	10.5	11.0
White	5.6	5.3	7.3	9.4	9.5	9.9
Black	8.8	10.5	13.8	17.6	15.1	15.6
<u>Number of households (in millions)^b</u>	54.1	55.2	56.9	56.1	57.7	59.2
<u>Multiunit structures</u>						
All households	8.6%	9.5%	12.8%	13.9%	13.9%	13.5%
White	7.6	7.9	10.8	11.8	12.2	12.0
Black	11.9	16.1	21.2	22.3	20.2	19.2
All central city households	12.2	13.5	18.3	19.5	19.3	18.4
White	11.2	11.5	15.7	17.0	17.7	17.2
Black	14.3	19.3	25.6	26.6	24.0	22.1
<u>Number of households (in millions)^b</u>	24.1	23.7	24.4	24.1	24.3	24.4

Note: See Note, table 2.3.

^aExcludes row houses and mobile homes.^bThe estimates for total number of households reporting they live in a neighborhood in 1991, 1993, and 1995 are based on the 1990 census and are not directly comparable to prior-year estimates that are based on the 1980 census.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime, 1995*, Special Report NCJ-165811 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, April 1998), p. 3.

Table 2.5

Attitudes toward most serious problems facing children in America today

United States, 1997

Question: "What do you think are the two or three most serious problems facing children in America today?"

Problem	Percent
Drugs/drug abuse	56.4%
Crime	23.9
Poor quality education	17.1
Breakdown of home life	16.6
Alcohol	7.9
Peer pressure	7.5
Lack of discipline	7.3
Influence of television and movies	3.8
Single parents	2.6
Sexual freedom	2.4
Pregnancy	2.1
Poverty	1.7
Lack of job opportunities	1.6
AIDS	1.4
Child abuse	1.2
Working parents	1.2
Divorce/separation	1.1
Health care	0.9
Diseases and medical conditions	0.8
Other	32.4
Refused	3.9

Note: The survey on American Attitudes Toward Children's Health Care Issues was funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The survey was designed by the Harvard University School of Public Health, with assistance from the Survey Research Center at the University of Maryland. The Survey Research Center conducted the telephone survey of 1,501 adults within the continental United States Aug. 11 to Nov. 2, 1997. Percents add to more than 100 because multiple responses were recorded.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.6

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward the most important problem facing teenagersUnited States, 1997^a

Question: "What is the most important problem facing people your age—that is, the thing which concerns you the most?"

Problem	Teenagers			Parents ^{b,c}
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17	
Drugs	35%	36%	35%	26%
Social pressures	18	20	17	34
Crime and violence in school	8	9	7	2
Doing well in school	8	10	6	3
Sexual issues	8	5	10	4
Getting into college	4	2	5	1
Other crime and violence	4	4	4	2
Problems with parents/family	3	3	3	4
Jobs/opportunity	2	1	4	2
Other	4	4	4	15
Don't know/no response	6	7	6	4

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, and parents of teenagers. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. Subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews. In total, 1,115 teen interviews and 998 parent interviews were completed. Households in which both a teen and parent were interviewed accounted for 648 teen and 648 parent interviews. Weighting was applied to bring the households in line with ethnic and regional targets, to correct teen distributions on gender and household structure, and to correct parent distributions on gender and marital status.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of multiple responses.

^bParents were asked about teenagers' problems.

^cSome responses mentioned only by parents are not included; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), p. 57. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.7

Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest problem facing people their age

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "What do you think is the biggest problem facing people your age today?"

	Total	Sex		Age	
		Male	Female	13 to 15 years	16 and 17 years
Drugs	39%	41%	36%	40%	36%
Peer pressure	15	12	20	16	15
Violence/crime	7	7	7	6	9
Grades/staying in school	5	5	5	3	7
Gangs	3	3	2	3	2
Getting a job	3	3	2	2	4
Pregnancy/abortion	2	1	3	1	3
Sex	2	1	2	1	3
Smoking	2	3	1	3	(a)
Parental pressure	2	1	3	2	3
Quality of education	1	1	1	1	2
Drinking	1	1	1	1	1
AIDS	1	(a)	1	(a)	1
Other	8	9	8	8	8
Don't know/no answer	9	9	8	10	7

Note: These data are from the New York Times/CBS News National Teenagers Survey. Interviews of 1,048 teenagers were conducted Apr. 2-7, 1998. Some problems mentioned by less than 1% of respondents have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

^aLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.8

Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest problem where they go to school

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "What would you say is the biggest problem where you go to school?"

	Total	Sex		Age	
		Male	Female	13 to 15 years	16 and 17 years
Violence	16%	18%	13%	20%	9%
Drugs	14	12	17	14	15
Discipline	9	9	9	8	10
Racism/discrimination	8	8	9	7	10
Peer pressure	7	5	9	7	7
Teachers/administration	7	6	7	5	9
Gangs	3	3	3	4	2
Smoking/chewing tobacco	3	4	3	4	2
Drinking	2	3	1	2	2
Quality of education	2	3	2	2	3
Crowded classrooms	2	2	1	1	2
Truancy	1	1	1	1	2
Pregnancy/abortion	1	1	1	(a)	1
School funding	1	(a)	1	(a)	1
Nothing	4	3	4	4	3
Other	4	4	4	5	3
Not in school	3	3	3	1	6
Don't know/no answer	13	15	12	13	13

Note: See Note, table 2.7. Some problems mentioned by less than 1% of respondents have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

^aLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.9

Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schoolsBy school status, United States, 1994-97^a

Question: "What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools in this community must deal?"

	National				No children in school				Public school parents				Nonpublic school parents			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
Use/abuse of drugs	11%	7%	16%	14%	11%	7%	17%	14%	13%	7%	14%	14%	7%	8%	12%	9%
Lack of discipline/more control ^b	18	15	15	15	18	17	16	15	17	11	12	12	22	18	18	22
Lack of proper financial support	13	11	13	15	12	10	14	15	16	12	13	14	9	3	7	4
Difficulty in getting good teachers/quality teachers	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	(c)	3	(c)
Concern about standards/quality of education	8	4	NA	8	8	4	NA	7	5	4	NA	8	11	4	NA	10
Overcrowded/large schools	7	3	8	8	5	3	6	6	11	5	11	10	10	3	15	17
Parents' lack of support/interest	3	2	NA	NA	4	2	NA	NA	2	2	NA	NA	3	3	NA	NA
Pupils' lack of interest/truancy, poor attitudes	3	2	5	6	3	2	5	6	3	1	6	6	5	2	4	3
Integration/segregation/racial discrimination	3	2	2	NA	3	2	2	NA	2	2	3	NA	2	(c)	2	NA
Fighting/violence/gangs	18	9	14	12	19	9	14	12	16	8	15	12	17	8	17	16
Lack of family structure/problems of home life ^d	5	3	4	NA	5	3	5	NA	3	1	1	NA	4	5	1	NA
Crime/vandalism	4	2	3	NA	5	2	3	NA	4	2	1	NA	3	2	3	NA
Lack of respect for self/others ^e	3	3	2	NA	2	3	2	NA	3	4	1	NA	1	6	2	NA
There are no problems ^f	1	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	6	7	3	2	2	3	(c)

Note: Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents have been omitted.
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aTotals add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

^b"More control" added in 1997.

^cLess than 0.5%.

^d"Problems of home life" added in 1994.

^e"For self/others" added in 1996.

^fReworded to "no problems" in 1996.

Source: Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1994), p. 43; Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), pp. 52, 53; Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 49; and Lowell C. Rose, Alex M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97c.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.10

Attitudes toward dealing with a drug problem in public schools

By school status, United States, 1997

Question: "In your opinion, which is more effective for dealing with a drug problem in the public schools in your community--an educational approach, pointing out the consequences of drug use, or severe penalties for those violating the school drug policy?"

	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents
Educational approach	52%	52%	53%	44%
Severe penalties	42	41	43	49
Don't know	6	7	4	7

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll on the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97h.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.11

Attitudes toward zero-tolerance drug and alcohol and weapon policies in public schools

By school status, United States, 1997

	"Some public schools have a so-called zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy, which means that possession of any illegal drugs or alcohol by students will result in automatic suspension. Would you favor or oppose such a policy in the public schools in your community?"				"Some public schools have a so-called zero-tolerance weapons policy, which means that students found carrying weapons of any kind in school will be automatically suspended. Would you favor or oppose such a policy in the public schools in your community?"			
	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents
Favor	86%	84%	89%	93%	93%	92%	95%	91%
Oppose	13	15	10	7	5	6	4	9
Don't know	1	1	1	(a)	2	2	1	(a)

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aLess than 0.5%.Source: Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll on the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97h.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.12

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward drug policies

United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following measures:"

	Random locker searches at your school for drugs and drug paraphernalia		Drug testing of all students		Drug testing of student athletes		A zero-tolerance policy under which any student caught with drugs would be expelled from school		Removing the criminal penalties for marijuana possession	
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor
Teenagers	32%	23%	30%	22%	50%	23%	55%	18%	20%	15%
Ages 12 to 14	34	22	35	22	52	23	64	14	23	14
Ages 15 to 17	30	23	25	22	48	23	47	22	17	17
Parents	56	21	25	17	53	26	51	18	13	14

Note: See Note, [table 2.6](#).Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), pp. 62, 63. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.13

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, 1973-98

Question: "As far as people in charge of running . . . are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

(Percent reporting "a great deal of confidence")

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
The military	40%	33%	24%	23%	27%	29%	29%	28%	28%	31%	35%	45%	32%	36%	35%	33%	32%	43%	47%	50%	57%	39%	43%	47%	37%	44%
Medicine	57	50	43	42	43	42	30	34	37	32	35	43	39	33	36	40	30	35	NA	29	22	23	26	29	29	38
The White House	18	28	NA	11	31	14	15	18	28	20	23	42	30	19	23	17	20	21	21	16	23	18	13	15	15	20
Major educational institutions such as colleges and universities	44	40	36	31	37	41	33	36	34	30	36	40	35	34	36	34	32	35	21	25	23	25	27	30	27	37
The U.S. Supreme Court	33	40	28	22	29	29	28	27	29	25	33	35	28	32	30	32	15	32	23	30	26	31	32	31	28	37
Congress	NA	18	13	9	17	10	18	18	16	13	20	28	16	21	20	15	16	12	9	10	12	8	10	10	11	12
Television news	41	31	35	28	28	35	37	29	24	24	24	28	23	27	29	28	25	27	20	22	23	20	16	21	18	26
Organized religion	36	32	32	24	29	34	20	22	22	20	22	24	21	22	16	17	16	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	NA	20	25
State governments	24	NA	NA	16	19	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	16	19	18	NA	18	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local governments	28	NA	NA	21	18	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	18	21	18	NA	17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Major companies	29	21	19	16	20	22	18	16	16	18	18	19	17	16	21	19	16	14	15	11	16	19	21	21	18	21
The press	30	25	26	20	18	23	28	19	16	14	19	18	16	19	19	18	18	18	14	13	15	13	11	14	11	14
Law firms	24	18	16	12	14	18	16	13	NA	NA	12	17	12	14	15	13	NA	NA	NA	11	11	8	9	11	7	11
Organized labor	20	18	14	10	14	15	10	14	12	8	10	12	13	11	11	13	10	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	NA	9	13
Executive branch of the Federal Government	19	28	13	11	23	14	17	17	24	NA	NA	NA	19	18	19	16	17	14	NA	13	15	12	9	12	12	17
Wall Street	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	15	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	9	9	12	13	15	13	17	17	18

Note: Some figures have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Feb. 11, 1998), pp. 3-5. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.14

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little."

(Percent saying "a great deal" or "quite a lot")

	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Church or organized religion	66%	68%	64%	65%	64%	62%	66%	57%	61%	59%	52%	56%	56%	53%	54%	57%	57%	56%	59%
Military	NA	58	57	54	50	53	61	63	61	58	63	68	69	68	64	64	66	60	64
U.S. Supreme Court	44	49	46	45	46	42	56	54	52	56	46	47	39	44	42	44	45	50	50
Banks and banking	NA	NA	NA	60	46	51	51	49	51	49	42	36	30	37	35	43	44	41	40
Public schools	58	NA	54	53	42	39	48	49	50	49	43	45	35	39	34	40	38	40	37
Congress	42	40	40	34	29	28	39	41	NA	35	32	24	18	18	18	21	20	22	28
Newspapers	39	NA	NA	51	35	38	35	37	31	36	NA	39	32	31	29	30	32	35	33
Big business	26	34	33	32	20	28	31	28	NA	25	NA	25	22	22	26	21	24	28	30
Television news	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46	35	33	36	34
Organized labor	30	38	39	36	28	26	28	29	26	26	NA	27	22	26	26	26	25	23	26
Police	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	54	58	60	59	58
Criminal justice system	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	15	20	19	19	24
Presidency	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	43	38	45	39	49	53

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 383 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1997), p. 24; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.15

Reported confidence in the criminal justice system

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the criminal justice system?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None ^a
National	23%	40%	32%	3%
Sex				
Male	28	39	30	3
Female	20	41	34	3
Race				
White	23	42	32	3
Black	25	30	34	5
Nonwhite ^b	25	32	33	5
Age				
18 to 29 years	26	38	35	1
30 to 49 years	23	40	33	4
50 to 64 years	23	42	31	3
50 years and older	22	42	29	3
65 years and older	22	42	27	4
Education				
College post graduate	23	45	28	3
College graduate	18	56	23	1
Some college	27	40	29	4
No college	23	35	37	3
Income				
\$50,000 and over	23	48	27	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	20	39	38	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	24	40	32	3
Under \$20,000	28	34	33	4
Community				
Urban area	18	42	34	5
Suburban area	24	41	32	2
Rural area	28	37	29	3
Region				
East	23	39	33	3
Midwest	24	44	30	2
South	25	37	32	4
West	20	43	32	4
Politics				
Republican	22	43	31	3
Democrat	25	41	29	3
Independent	23	38	35	3

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aResponse volunteered.^bIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.16

Reported confidence in the criminal justice systemBy demographic characteristics, United States, 1996^a

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence, you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little. . .the criminal justice system?"

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little	Don't know
National	8.0%	14.8%	40.1%	32.6%	4.4%
Sex					
Male	10.6	16.0	37.8	31.7	3.8
Female	5.5	13.8	42.3	33.4	5.0
Race, ethnicity					
White	6.4	16.0	41.6	32.8	3.2
Black	12.7	7.3	40.0	35.5	4.5
Hispanic	13.9	15.2	32.9	26.6	11.4
Age					
18 to 24 years	13.4	14.8	48.6	22.5	0.7
25 to 39 years	7.8	16.4	38.3	32.8	4.7
40 to 59 years	7.1	14.1	41.6	33.0	4.2
60 years and older	6.7	11.6	34.8	39.6	7.3
Education					
College graduate	5.1	20.4	46.3	23.8	4.4
Some college	8.3	13.3	42.6	35.2	0.6
High school graduate	9.4	12.1	36.0	37.8	4.7
Less than high school graduate	10.7	13.1	30.3	32.0	13.9
Income					
Over \$60,000	5.3	18.0	48.2	27.2	1.3
\$30,000 to \$60,000	6.8	14.9	43.8	31.5	3.0
\$15,000 to \$29,999	9.1	15.3	36.4	34.7	4.5
Less than \$15,000	16.5	12.2	30.9	31.7	8.6
Community					
Urban	6.0	12.6	46.7	31.1	3.6
Suburban	8.7	15.7	44.4	28.7	2.4
Small city	5.6	18.9	40.0	27.2	8.3
Rural/small town	9.1	13.6	35.1	38.0	4.2
Region					
Northeast	5.7	17.7	39.4	35.4	1.7
Midwest	9.6	18.4	36.4	30.9	4.8
South	9.8	10.8	44.5	30.3	4.6
West	4.8	14.9	37.8	36.5	6.0
Politics					
Republican	9.5	15.8	39.5	32.4	2.9
Democrat	9.4	15.0	45.2	24.9	5.6
Independent/other	4.3	14.4	35.7	40.8	4.7

Note: The National Opinion Survey on Crime and Justice-1996 was designed and commissioned by the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program at Sam Houston State University. The data were collected by the Public Policy Research Institute of Texas A & M University through telephone interviews conducted from May 16 to June 9, 1996. A total of 1,085 interviews were conducted from a stratified random sample of all working telephone numbers in the United States. The data presented are weighted estimates adjusted according to U.S. Bureau of the Census racial/ethnic group and gender population figures for 1990. The "other" racial category is comprised of a small number of respondents and therefore was omitted.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.17

Reported confidence in the police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the police?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None ^a
National	58%	30%	10%	1%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	59	29	11	(b)
Female	57	31	10	1
<u>Race</u>				
White	61	30	8	(b)
Black	34	38	25	1
Nonwhite ^c	40	33	24	1
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	46	34	18	(b)
30 to 49 years	59	30	10	(b)
50 to 64 years	61	29	10	1
50 years and older	64	27	6	1
65 years and older	68	26	3	1
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	55	39	6	0
College graduate	67	26	7	0
Some college	57	31	12	(b)
No college	57	28	11	1
<u>Income</u>				
\$50,000 and over	59	33	8	0
\$30,000 to \$49,999	58	28	14	0
\$20,000 to \$29,999	65	29	6	0
Under \$20,000	51	29	15	2
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	50	32	17	1
Suburban area	60	31	8	0
Rural area	63	27	7	1
<u>Region</u>				
East	55	33	10	1
Midwest	59	31	11	0
South	56	29	12	1
West	62	28	8	1
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	68	23	8	0
Democrat	54	35	10	1
Independent	55	31	12	1

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aResponse volunteered.^bLess than 0.5%.^cIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.18

Reported confidence in local police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence, you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little. . . your local police?"

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
National	25.6%	34.3%	27.8%	12.3%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	26.2	33.8	26.3	13.7
Female	25.1	34.7	29.2	11.0
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>				
White	24.5	38.5	26.0	11.0
Black	26.1	18.0	35.1	20.7
Hispanic	31.2	22.1	35.1	11.7
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 24 years	22.7	31.2	29.8	16.3
25 to 39 years	25.5	33.9	27.6	12.9
40 to 59 years	25.9	34.9	28.0	11.1
60 years and older	28.2	36.2	26.4	9.2
<u>Education</u>				
College graduate	30.2	38.8	24.7	6.2
Some college	27.6	32.5	26.6	13.3
High school graduate	20.8	34.7	30.3	14.2
Less than high school graduate	23.6	28.5	30.9	17.1
<u>Income</u>				
Over \$60,000	26.4	41.4	27.8	4.4
\$30,000 to \$60,000	24.0	33.6	28.4	13.9
\$15,000 to \$29,999	22.1	34.6	29.2	14.2
Less than \$15,000	30.4	28.3	24.6	16.7
<u>Community</u>				
Urban	27.1	24.7	34.9	13.3
Suburban	27.5	36.6	25.4	10.6
Small city	25.1	39.7	26.3	8.9
Rural/small town	24.0	34.3	27.1	14.6
<u>Region</u>				
Northeast	18.7	30.4	33.3	17.5
Midwest	25.8	38.4	22.9	12.9
South	25.6	36.0	28.5	9.9
West	30.5	29.7	28.5	11.2
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	29.2	35.8	26.3	8.7
Democrat	24.9	35.3	29.1	10.7
Independent/other	22.5	35.5	26.4	15.6

Note: See [Note, table 2.16](#). The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

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Table 2.19

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the U.S. Supreme Court?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None ^a
National	50%	34%	12%	1%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	57	27	12	1
Female	43	41	12	1
<u>Race</u>				
White	51	34	11	1
Black	40	39	17	4
Nonwhite ^b	42	35	17	3
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	51	34	13	1
30 to 49 years	52	35	11	1
50 to 64 years	48	37	11	(c)
50 years and older	45	33	12	2
65 years and older	42	29	13	3
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	57	35	7	0
College graduate	63	31	4	0
Some college	50	35	13	1
No college	44	34	14	2
<u>Income</u>				
\$50,000 and over	56	37	7	0
\$30,000 to \$49,999	51	34	14	(c)
\$20,000 to \$29,999	53	29	14	0
Under \$20,000	39	35	14	3
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	46	34	14	1
Suburban area	52	35	11	1
Rural area	50	33	11	1
<u>Region</u>				
East	51	35	11	1
Midwest	48	37	11	0
South	46	35	14	2
West	55	29	11	1
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	52	33	11	0
Democrat	48	38	9	1
Independent	49	31	15	3

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aResponse volunteered.

^bIncludes black respondents.

^cLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.20

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1980-96

Question: "I'm going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions (U.S. Supreme Court) are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

	1980			1982			1983			1984			1986			1987		
	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
National	25%	50%	20%	31%	53%	12%	27%	55%	14%	33%	51%	12%	30%	52%	14%	36%	50%	10%
Sex																		
Male	27	49	21	32	53	13	31	50	16	40	44	15	36	47	15	41	46	11
Female	23	51	18	30	53	12	24	58	12	29	56	11	25	56	14	33	52	10
Race																		
White	24	50	20	30	54	12	27	55	14	35	50	13	31	53	13	38	47	11
Black/other	29	47	16	31	49	13	26	53	15	25	54	11	24	49	19	26	61	7
Age																		
18 to 20 years	34	57	2	43	47	9	38	49	11	29	52	19	47	42	10	62	24	10
21 to 29 years	30	52	15	33	53	12	33	55	10	45	42	11	38	48	10	41	51	6
30 to 49 years	24	53	20	28	56	14	24	60	15	30	56	12	30	55	14	36	52	9
50 years and older	22	46	22	31	52	12	26	51	16	30	51	13	24	52	17	32	48	13
Education^a																		
College	28	55	16	36	53	10	34	53	12	40	50	8	37	52	9	44	49	6
High school graduate	24	50	22	27	55	14	24	58	15	30	52	15	26	56	15	32	51	12
Less than high school graduate	21	39	20	30	45	11	19	47	19	25	46	17	21	39	27	24	47	18
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	25	56	16	36	53	10	34	52	11	40	49	9	36	52	11	47	45	7
Clerical	25	51	19	29	58	11	26	57	14	24	62	12	25	57	14	33	58	7
Manual	24	46	21	28	52	15	22	57	17	33	48	14	27	51	17	29	52	13
Farmer	21	47	29	38	50	12	41	36	10	45	40	15	36	39	15	35	40	22
Region																		
Northeast	24	50	19	34	49	13	30	54	12	32	51	13	32	52	13	43	48	7
Midwest	27	57	14	30	57	11	30	54	12	30	55	12	30	54	13	32	52	12
South	24	51	22	27	53	15	26	53	17	32	49	14	28	50	16	33	50	12
West	24	46	24	32	53	11	22	60	15	41	48	9	30	54	14	41	48	8
Religion																		
Protestant	23	52	19	29	54	13	27	54	16	33	52	11	28	52	15	35	50	11
Catholic	29	42	21	33	54	10	26	58	12	32	52	13	32	54	11	39	48	9
Jewish	25	59	12	35	43	19	43	45	10	45	45	10	37	55	8	55	35	5
None	21	57	19	30	53	16	30	51	14	36	43	17	33	47	19	33	53	10
Politics																		
Republican	23	53	21	34	50	13	30	53	16	42	47	10	33	51	14	42	48	6
Democrat	28	48	17	30	54	11	27	54	15	34	51	12	29	53	14	34	50	12
Independent	22	50	21	29	54	14	26	57	12	27	54	14	28	52	15	35	50	12

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988			1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
35%	50%	11%	34%	50%	11%	35%	48%	13%	38%	48%	13%	31%	52%	13%	30%	50%	16%	28%	50%	17%
39	47	10	38	47	12	36	48	13	44	42	14	34	51	12	34	48	16	33	45	18
31	53	11	32	52	10	34	48	12	33	52	12	28	52	14	27	52	17	24	54	16
36	49	11	36	49	11	37	47	12	38	47	12	32	51	12	30	50	17	30	49	16
26	56	10	26	55	12	27	53	14	34	48	14	20	55	20	29	50	15	23	53	18
57	37	7	44	47	3	39	48	4	32	42	21	38	52	7	32	47	21	38	40	15
43	45	8	40	50	8	38	47	10	50	41	7	32	55	13	37	51	11	30	46	19
34	55	8	34	54	9	36	47	14	36	51	12	32	52	14	30	52	16	26	55	15
30	50	14	31	46	15	32	50	12	33	48	15	28	50	14	27	48	19	29	46	17
40	51	8	42	50	7	44	47	9	45	45	9	36	51	11	36	49	13	33	52	13
32	51	13	29	52	14	29	48	17	32	49	16	24	54	17	26	52	20	24	51	20
27	46	12	26	41	13	21	51	13	23	57	13	27	46	13	19	42	20	22	41	22
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	52	10	38	48	14	34	51	12
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28	58	12	31	54	13	27	54	16
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	33	46	17	30	53	15	31	49	16
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	51	16	26	46	22	24	49	21
38	52	9	43	51	5	42	48	10	42	47	10	36	52	9	37	48	14	34	50	12
32	54	10	33	50	12	35	48	10	45	45	10	25	57	14	28	54	16	29	52	17
32	50	12	27	52	14	28	49	17	32	50	15	29	49	17	26	52	17	24	49	20
33	33	33	31	19	31	35	53	12	30	60	5	26	58	5	35	38	25	13	42	29
35	53	9	37	45	9	39	43	13	44	39	14	32	50	12	35	47	14	31	49	13
33	51	11	33	55	9	37	48	10	34	51	13	33	52	11	29	50	18	29	51	17
37	44	12	32	48	16	29	53	13	37	48	13	25	55	16	27	51	18	26	49	18
32	58	8	38	52	6	39	44	15	38	51	9	34	48	13	32	51	15	29	51	17
35	48	12	30	54	12	33	50	13	35	48	15	29	52	14	28	51	17	25	51	18
34	55	9	47	40	6	40	42	12	45	44	9	36	50	12	32	51	14	33	48	15
39	61	0	35	41	18	67	33	0	48	43	10	30	50	15	42	46	12	48	44	4
38	52	7	28	54	12	34	44	16	24	64	11	29	56	13	33	47	18	30	45	19
42	49	7	40	52	6	41	48	9	46	43	11	33	54	11	32	49	16	32	51	15
33	52	12	32	51	13	31	48	16	34	50	13	27	52	16	32	48	16	30	51	13
30	50	12	33	46	13	33	48	13	34	50	14	32	50	13	27	53	17	24	49	21

Table 2.21

Reported confidence in the local court system

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence, you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little . . . your local court system?"

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
National	11.7%	22.3%	43.2%	22.8%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	14.2	21.1	41.1	23.6
Female	9.4	23.5	45.2	21.9
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>				
White	12.1	23.4	43.0	21.5
Black	5.7	11.4	54.3	28.6
Hispanic	18.1	20.8	31.9	29.2
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 24 years	10.2	21.2	49.6	19.0
25 to 39 years	13.8	20.4	43.6	22.1
40 to 59 years	11.1	24.9	42.3	21.7
60 years and older	9.9	21.9	39.7	28.5
<u>Education</u>				
College graduate	14.5	27.3	43.3	14.9
Some college	10.3	19.9	52.7	17.0
High school graduate	10.5	19.8	40.2	29.4
Less than high school graduate	11.7	23.4	25.2	39.6
<u>Income</u>				
Over \$60,000	12.4	27.1	47.2	13.3
\$30,000 to \$60,000	12.4	20.6	47.6	19.4
\$15,000 to \$29,999	9.7	21.1	42.7	26.4
Less than \$15,000	11.8	22.8	32.3	33.1
<u>Community</u>				
Urban	6.3	19.4	47.5	26.9
Suburban	14.2	21.5	45.3	19.0
Small city	7.5	27.2	38.7	26.6
Rural/small town	13.6	22.1	41.9	22.4
<u>Region</u>				
Northeast	9.1	20.6	47.3	23.0
Midwest	15.1	26.0	41.1	17.7
South	10.5	22.3	43.8	23.4
West	12.1	18.6	41.6	27.7
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	15.4	25.7	41.4	17.5
Democrat	11.7	24.6	43.4	20.3
Independent/other	7.2	18.5	43.4	30.9

Note: See Note, table 2.16. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.22

Reported confidence in the State prison system

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence, you, yourself have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little . . . your state prison system?"

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
National	7.9%	17.6%	42.2%	32.3%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	10.6	19.0	37.8	32.7
Female	5.3	16.2	46.4	32.0
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>				
White	7.2	19.1	43.9	29.7
Black	9.0	6.0	42.0	43.0
Hispanic	17.6	20.6	26.5	35.3
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 24 years	14.4	20.9	38.1	26.6
25 to 39 years	8.3	17.5	43.6	30.7
40 to 59 years	6.5	16.5	43.5	33.5
60 years and older	4.2	17.4	39.6	38.9
<u>Education</u>				
College graduate	6.1	18.8	48.7	26.4
Some college	7.2	18.4	43.3	31.1
High school graduate	9.1	15.2	37.5	38.2
Less than high school graduate	12.6	17.5	35.0	35.0
<u>Income</u>				
Over \$60,000	5.4	15.3	50.5	28.8
\$30,000 to \$60,000	8.1	18.9	43.6	29.4
\$15,000 to \$29,999	10.4	16.1	37.0	36.5
Less than \$15,000	8.9	19.5	31.7	39.8
<u>Community</u>				
Urban	5.8	12.3	45.2	36.8
Suburban	7.2	13.6	47.5	31.7
Small city	10.5	24.1	35.2	30.2
Rural/small town	8.5	19.6	40.2	31.7
<u>Region</u>				
Northeast	4.9	15.9	41.5	37.8
Midwest	10.9	21.9	40.9	26.3
South	8.4	15.2	43.0	33.4
West	6.1	18.0	42.5	33.3
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	9.8	20.4	40.9	29.0
Democrat	6.8	16.8	46.9	29.4
Independent/other	8.2	17.2	39.1	35.5

Note: See Note, table 2.16. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.23

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of various occupations

By type of occupation, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: . . .?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low	No opinion
Druggists, pharmacists	16%	53%	27%	3%	0%	1%
Clergy	17	42	31	5	1	4
Medical doctors	10	46	36	5	2	1
College teachers	11	44	35	3	1	6
Dentists	9	45	37	5	2	2
Police	10	39	40	8	2	1
Engineers	9	40	40	3	1	7
Funeral directors	7	29	45	9	2	8
Bankers	4	30	51	11	3	1
Journalists	2	21	53	17	4	3
TV reporters, commentators	4	18	55	17	4	2
Business executives	3	17	55	17	3	5
Local officeholders	3	17	56	17	4	3
Building contractors	3	17	53	18	4	5
Newspaper reporters	2	17	48	24	6	3
Stockbrokers	2	16	54	14	3	11
State officeholders	2	15	53	24	4	2
Real estate agents	3	13	56	20	4	4
Lawyers	3	12	41	31	10	3
Labor union leaders	2	13	41	26	12	6
Senators	2	12	50	27	6	3
Advertising practitioners	2	10	49	26	6	7
Congress members	2	10	49	28	8	3
Insurance salespeople	2	10	47	30	8	3
Car salespeople	2	6	31	40	19	2
Public opinion pollsters	4	19	55	12	2	8

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.24

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers

United States, selected years 1976-97

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low	No opinion
1976	6%	19%	48%	18%	8%	1%
1977	5	21	44	18	8	4
1981	4	21	41	19	8	7
1983	5	19	43	18	9	6
1985	6	21	40	21	9	3
1988	3	15	45	23	10	4
1990	4	18	43	22	9	4
1991	4	18	43	20	10	5
1992	3	15	43	25	11	3
1993	3	13	41	28	13	2
1994	3	14	36	31	15	1
1995	4	12	36	29	17	2
1996	3	14	39	27	14	3
1997	3	12	41	31	10	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 18; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.25

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
National	3%	12%	41%	31%	10%
Sex					
Male	4	10	37	31	16
Female	2	13	44	31	6
Race					
White	2	11	40	33	11
Black	9	19	45	14	12
Nonwhite ^a	8	18	44	19	10
Age					
18 to 29 years	4	15	37	33	9
30 to 49 years	3	10	42	32	12
50 to 64 years	2	10	43	30	12
65 years and older	3	15	39	28	8
Education					
College post graduate	4	12	43	29	11
College graduate	0	4	55	30	10
Some college	2	11	38	36	11
No college	4	14	38	28	11
Income					
\$75,000 and over	2	8	47	28	14
\$50,000 and over ^b	2	9	43	32	13
\$30,000 to \$49,999	1	11	44	32	10
\$20,000 to \$29,999	6	14	39	34	5
Under \$20,000	4	15	39	27	11
Community					
Urban area	4	11	44	30	9
Suburban area	3	12	37	32	13
Rural area	2	12	41	31	10
Region					
East	3	11	41	33	9
Midwest	3	13	41	32	8
South	4	12	36	34	12
West	2	11	46	24	13
Politics					
Republican	4	11	37	32	13
Democrat	4	15	44	25	10
Independent	2	9	40	36	9

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

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Table 2.26

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police

United States, selected years 1977-97

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1977	8%	29%	50%	9%	3%
1981	8	36	41	9	4
1983	7	34	45	7	4
1985	10	37	41	7	3
1988	10	37	39	8	3
1990	9	40	41	7	2
1991	7	36	42	10	3
1992	8	34	42	10	4
1993	10	40	39	7	3
1994	9	37	41	9	3
1995	8	33	44	11	3
1996	10	39	38	8	3
1997	10	39	40	8	2

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 10; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.27

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
National	10%	39%	40%	8%	2%
Sex					
Male	13	40	36	8	2
Female	8	38	43	7	3
Race					
White	11	41	40	6	1
Black	11	20	38	20	11
Nonwhite ^a	9	24	39	19	9
Age					
18 to 29 years	12	34	38	10	5
30 to 49 years	10	41	40	7	2
50 to 64 years	7	37	44	9	2
65 years and older	13	41	37	6	(b)
Education					
College post graduate	3	42	46	5	2
College graduate	10	44	36	5	5
Some college	11	39	42	6	2
No college	12	36	37	11	2
Income					
\$75,000 and over	12	39	42	3	4
\$50,000 and over ^c	13	41	38	5	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	7	44	38	8	2
\$20,000 to \$29,999	10	40	42	7	1
Under \$20,000	11	32	40	11	5
Community					
Urban area	10	37	39	9	4
Suburban area	13	39	39	7	1
Rural area	8	40	42	8	1
Region					
East	10	35	43	8	3
Midwest	11	46	37	5	1
South	11	34	42	10	2
West	9	42	36	8	3
Politics					
Republican	15	44	33	7	(b)
Democrat	10	36	39	10	4
Independent	7	38	46	6	2

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

^bLess than 0.5%.

^cIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.28

Attitudes toward a police officer striking an adult male citizen

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a police-man striking an adult male citizen?"

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	73%	25%	73%	23%	76%	20%	76%	20%	73%	24%	78%	20%	69%	28%	72%	25%	73%	23%
Sex																		
Male	75	22	77	20	81	17	82	16	80	18	83	15	75	23	80	17	80	17
Female	71	28	70	26	72	22	72	23	68	29	73	23	65	32	66	31	67	27
Race																		
White	77	21	77	20	79	18	80	17	76	21	80	17	73	25	76	22	76	20
Black/other	42	54	46	47	48	44	48	45	45	49	59	37	50	46	49	46	56	35
Age																		
18 to 20 years	55	45	70	27	78	20	67	30	71	29	78	22	71	27	60	38	71	29
21 to 29 years	76	22	75	22	78	20	79	19	76	23	81	17	72	26	74	25	73	24
30 to 49 years	76	23	79	18	79	17	79	18	79	20	81	17	75	24	78	21	77	19
50 years and older	70	26	68	27	73	23	73	21	66	28	72	24	62	34	65	30	68	26
Education^a																		
College	84	14	86	13	85	13	85	12	82	17	87	11	79	20	85	14	83	14
High school graduate	72	27	71	26	76	20	76	21	73	24	75	23	67	31	67	31	70	26
Less than high school graduate	56	38	58	35	62	33	59	33	52	41	56	36	46	46	51	38	48	39
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	83	16	84	14	84	14	86	11	83	15	85	13	76	22	83	15	86	12
Clerical	80	18	77	20	78	18	79	19	78	21	83	16	74	26	70	28	66	29
Manual	66	32	66	30	73	24	72	25	67	29	71	26	64	32	66	30	65	29
Farmer	69	22	63	27	70	28	79	8	70	24	92	3	61	29	63	34	78	15
Region																		
Northeast	68	31	74	24	75	22	74	25	74	24	77	20	65	34	68	28	71	26
Midwest	72	25	77	21	78	18	80	18	70	26	76	22	70	26	72	26	72	24
South	73	25	71	24	74	20	74	21	71	26	77	20	67	30	70	26	71	23
West	79	19	70	26	78	20	80	16	79	18	84	14	76	23	78	21	79	17
Religion																		
Protestant	74	24	73	22	77	19	75	21	74	22	78	19	70	27	73	24	74	22
Catholic	70	27	71	27	74	23	76	21	70	28	75	22	66	32	68	30	68	27
Jewish	71	26	91	4	70	30	72	24	81	16	83	12	67	26	76	18	80	15
None	69	30	76	23	82	16	85	13	70	26	80	18	74	25	76	22	75	21
Politics																		
Republican	76	22	76	19	79	17	76	20	78	20	86	13	74	24	78	19	82	16
Democrat	67	31	67	29	72	24	73	23	67	29	72	26	62	35	68	30	66	29
Independent	79	19	78	19	79	17	80	18	75	22	79	17	73	25	73	24	74	21

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
 For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCE-BOOK staff.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
73%	23%	70%	24%	70%	25%	66%	30%	73%	22%	71%	26%	67%	29%
77	20	77	18	77	19	71	27	81	16	80	18	75	21
69	25	66	28	64	30	62	33	68	27	64	32	60	35
77	19	74	21	73	22	70	26	77	19	76	22	71	25
51	41	51	40	52	41	44	51	51	40	48	46	47	45
74	26	69	31	59	36	53	42	69	28	56	38	50	46
70	26	73	21	74	24	68	30	80	19	70	27	68	28
79	18	74	20	74	23	72	27	75	22	76	22	70	26
68	26	65	28	63	28	58	34	68	24	66	30	63	31
78	19	78	17	78	19	73	24	79	18	79	19	74	23
73	23	66	30	64	30	64	32	70	26	66	32	62	33
50	36	53	34	48	33	36	54	55	33	52	40	52	39
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	81	18	76	22
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	23	80	18	71	27
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	20	69	28	68	28
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	29	60	35	57	37
79	19	80	14	80	18	75	23	79	17	80	18	75	21
77	19	70	26	73	24	66	30	74	22	67	30	60	36
69	26	64	30	64	29	60	35	72	24	68	29	66	30
62	25	75	12	50	38	55	35	47	47	70	20	58	37
68	29	62	30	68	24	63	34	71	25	65	32	57	38
70	24	79	19	69	26	66	30	67	27	71	26	69	27
75	19	71	20	67	27	65	31	77	18	71	26	66	29
77	20	66	29	76	20	70	26	76	20	78	20	76	21
74	21	73	22	70	25	67	28	74	21	70	27	69	26
66	29	66	28	67	27	62	34	67	27	71	25	62	35
91	4	75	19	71	29	68	32	79	21	76	22	61	37
78	20	68	25	74	19	65	34	78	21	77	22	70	26
75	21	76	18	76	19	72	25	78	17	77	20	78	18
69	26	69	26	64	30	58	37	65	29	66	30	60	36
75	20	66	26	70	25	68	28	76	20	71	26	66	30

Table 2.29

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who. . ."

	Was attacking the policeman with his fists?		Was attempting to escape from custody?		Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?		Was being questioned in a murder case?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1973	97%	3%	87%	12%	22%	76%	8%	90%
1975	98	2	86	11	19	77	8	90
1976	94	5	78	18	20	77	8	90
1978	93	6	75	22	18	80	8	89
1980	94	4	76	20	14	84	8	90
1983	92	7	75	21	15	83	9	89
1984	92	6	73	23	12	86	9	89
1986	94	5	72	24	14	85	9	90
1987	92	7	77	18	11	86	10	87
1988	92	6	76	19	12	86	8	89
1989	94	5	76	20	11	87	8	90
1990	92	6	74	21	12	84	11	86
1991	90	8	69	26	9	89	6	92
1993	92	6	73	23	7	91	7	90
1994	93	6	75	21	9	90	7	92
1996	91	7	68	27	7	92	5	94

Note: In 1973 and 1975 these data were based on a subsample of respondents who answered "yes" or "not sure" to the question presented in table 2.28. Since 1976, all survey respondents were asked the above questions. The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.30

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who . . ."

	Was attacking the policeman with his fists?		Was attempting to escape from custody?		Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?		Was being questioned in a murder case?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	91%	7%	68%	27%	7%	92%	5%	94%
Sex								
Male	94	4	75	22	10	89	5	93
Female	89	9	62	30	5	94	4	94
Race								
White	92	6	72	24	8	92	5	94
Black/other	86	12	51	41	6	92	5	92
Age								
18 to 20 years	91	8	62	30	8	92	4	94
21 to 29 years	91	7	69	27	5	94	2	97
30 to 49 years	92	7	68	27	6	94	5	94
50 years and older	91	7	69	26	10	88	6	91
Education^a								
College	92	7	72	24	5	94	3	96
High school graduate	90	8	65	29	9	90	6	92
Less than high school graduate	90	7	61	33	11	86	8	88
Income								
\$50,000 and over	95	4	76	20	6	93	4	95
\$30,000 to \$49,999	91	8	67	29	6	94	4	96
\$20,000 to \$29,999	92	7	71	24	8	91	5	94
Under \$20,000	89	10	62	33	8	90	6	91
Occupation								
Professional/business	93	7	73	22	7	92	4	95
Clerical	89	10	64	31	6	93	4	95
Manual	91	7	67	28	8	90	5	92
Farmer	95	5	66	29	3	95	0	100
Region								
Northeast	87	12	63	32	7	93	7	92
Midwest	92	8	71	26	8	92	5	94
South	93	6	65	28	8	90	4	93
West	93	6	74	21	6	93	3	96
Religion								
Protestant	92	6	70	25	8	91	5	94
Catholic	89	9	67	30	9	90	6	92
Jewish	94	6	74	20	6	94	6	94
None	89	10	64	31	4	95	2	97
Politics								
Republican	96	4	80	17	9	90	6	93
Democrat	89	10	62	32	6	92	5	92
Independent	90	8	66	29	7	91	4	95

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.31

Attitudes toward level of crime in the United States

United States, selected years 1989-97

Question: "Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same ^a	No opinion
1989	84%	5%	5%	6%
1990	84	3	7	6
1992	89	3	4	4
1996	71	15	8	6
1997	64	25	6	5

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aResponse volunteered.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 386 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, November 1997), p. 11. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.32

Attitudes toward level of crime in the United States

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same ^a	No opinion
National	64%	25%	6%	5%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	56	32	6	6
Female	72	18	5	5
<u>Race</u>				
White	64	25	5	6
Black	62	29	7	2
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	67	27	4	2
30 to 49 years	68	24	4	4
50 to 64 years	56	27	9	8
65 years and older	63	23	6	8
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	47	39	8	6
College graduate	54	32	7	7
Some college	59	31	7	3
No college	75	16	4	5
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	53	47	4	6
\$50,000 and over ^b	57	30	6	7
\$30,000 to \$49,999	60	29	7	4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	73	16	5	6
Under \$20,000	71	23	3	3
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	58	31	6	5
Suburban area	63	27	5	5
Rural area	74	15	6	5
<u>Region</u>				
East	61	29	5	5
Midwest	61	27	7	5
South	70	20	5	5
West	62	25	7	6
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	61	27	7	5
Democrat	67	25	5	3
Independent	64	23	5	8

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aResponse volunteered.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 386 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, November 1997), p. 10. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.33

Attitudes toward level of crime in own areaUnited States, selected years 1972-97^a

Question: "Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same ^b	No opinion
1972	51%	10%	27%	12%
1975	50	12	29	9
1977	43	17	32	8
1981	54	8	29	9
1983	37	17	36	10
January 1989	47	21	27	5
June 1989	53	18	22	7
1990	51	18	24	8
1992	54	19	23	4
1996	46	24	25	5
1997	46	32	20	2

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bResponse volunteered.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 386 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, November 1997), p. 11. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.34

Attitudes toward level of crime in own area

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same ^a
National	46%	32%	20%
Sex			
Male	41	36	21
Female	51	28	19
Race			
White	47	30	21
Black	45	44	10
Age			
18 to 29 years	51	35	11
30 to 49 years	46	31	21
50 to 64 years	43	33	22
65 years and older	45	31	23
Education			
College post graduate	35	36	25
College graduate	39	35	22
Some college	46	35	18
No college	52	28	19
Income			
\$75,000 and over	41	38	19
\$50,000 and over ^b	41	37	19
\$30,000 to \$49,999	43	30	26
\$20,000 to \$29,999	48	30	20
Under \$20,000	54	30	15
Community			
Urban area	45	39	15
Suburban area	42	34	21
Rural area	55	20	23
Region			
East	46	36	18
Midwest	41	35	21
South	50	29	19
West	47	28	22
Politics			
Republican	41	31	26
Democrat	50	31	18
Independent	47	33	17

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).

^aResponse volunteered.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 386 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, November 1997), p. 10. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.35

Respondents reporting fear of walking alone and feeling unsafe at home at night

United States, selected years 1965-97

Question: "Is there any area near where you live--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night? How about when you're at home at night--do you feel safe and secure, or not?"

	Afraid to walk alone at night	Feel unsafe at home at night
1965	34%	NA
1967	31	NA
1972	42	17%
1975	45	20
1977	45	15
1981	45	16
1983	45	16
1989	43	10
1990	40	10
1992	44	11
1993	43	NA
1996	39	9
1997	38	9

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 318, pp. 51, 52; No. 339, p. 20; No. 371, p. 37 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.36

Respondents' feelings of safety alone at night at home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "How safe do you feel being alone at night in your home? Do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?"

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
National	47%	36%	12%	5%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	56	31	9	4
Female	38	40	15	7
<u>Race</u>				
White	50	34	12	4
Black	31	50	8	11
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	42	34	15	9
30 to 44 years	52	34	10	4
45 to 64 years	45	38	11	6
65 years and older	46	39	12	3
<u>Education</u>				
College graduate	54	35	9	2
Some college	48	38	10	3
No college	44	34	14	8
<u>Income</u>				
More than \$60,000	60	29	10	1
\$40,000 to \$60,000	48	36	10	6
\$20,000 to \$39,999	44	35	15	5
Less than \$20,000	39	39	12	10
<u>Community</u>				
City	43	35	16	6
Suburb	46	37	11	6
Small town	42	39	11	8
Rural	57	30	10	2
<u>Region</u>				
East	47	40	6	7
Midwest	54	31	11	4
South	44	33	15	8
West	41	39	17	3
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	51	29	17	3
Democrat	44	41	9	6
Independent	46	37	10	7

Note: These data are from a nationwide telephone survey of 1,572 adults age 18 and older, including 1,290 registered voters, conducted by the Los Angeles Times Poll Aug. 3-6, 1996. Telephone numbers were generated from a computer list that includes all telephone exchanges in the Nation. Random-digit dialing techniques were used to ensure that both listed and unlisted residences had an opportunity to be contacted. Results were adjusted to conform with U.S. Bureau of the Census figures on characteristics such as sex, race, age, education, region, and political party identification. The "not sure" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.37

Respondents' feelings of safety walking alone at night in own neighborhood

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "How do you feel when you are out alone at night walking in your neighborhood? Do you feel very safe, or fairly safe, or fairly unsafe, or very unsafe?"

	Very safe	Fairly safe	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe	Not sure
National	28%	40%	13%	16%	2%
Sex					
Male	40	41	10	8	1
Female	16	39	17	23	3
Race					
White	31	40	13	13	2
Black	13	32	22	27	5
Age					
18 to 29 years	25	44	14	17	0
30 to 44 years	31	41	14	12	1
45 to 64 years	32	40	12	12	2
65 years and older	21	36	12	21	7
Education					
College graduate	35	45	11	7	1
Some college	29	44	15	10	1
No college	25	36	14	21	3
Income					
More than \$60,000	44	41	10	4	1
\$40,000 to \$60,000	29	44	13	14	0
\$20,000 to \$39,999	23	43	13	18	2
Less than \$20,000	21	29	17	22	7
Community					
City	19	39	17	23	2
Suburb	30	44	14	9	2
Small town	29	37	13	17	3
Rural	37	40	7	11	1
Region					
East	26	39	13	17	3
Midwest	35	36	12	15	1
South	30	36	13	17	3
West	18	51	16	13	2
Politics					
Republican	30	44	15	8	1
Democrat	24	37	14	21	3
Independent	29	41	11	16	2

Note: See Note, table 2.36. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.38

Respondents reporting whether they fear walking alone at night near their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Is there any area within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

	Yes	No
National	39.4%	59.8%
Sex		
Male	30.3	69.1
Female	47.9	51.1
Race		
White	38.1	61.1
Black	50.1	49.9
Nonwhite ^a	47.1	52.6
Age		
18 to 29 years	39.1	60.4
30 to 49 years	34.8	64.9
50 to 64 years	42.8	56.0
65 years and older	47.9	49.7
Education		
College graduate	35.0	64.4
Some college	39.8	60.0
High school graduate	36.4	62.2
Less than high school graduate	51.4	47.7
Family income		
\$75,000 and over	38.7	61.3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	25.2	73.7
\$30,000 to \$49,999	38.2	61.4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	40.9	57.9
Under \$20,000	44.5	54.3
Community		
Urban area	52.0	47.2
Suburban area	36.1	63.1
Rural area	30.6	68.3
Region		
Northeast	38.8	60.8
Midwest	33.6	64.5
South	41.9	57.3
West	42.8	57.2

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of a nationwide sample of 1,204 adults, 18 years of age and older. The interviews were conducted Nov. 22-Dec. 1, 1996 by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.39

Respondents reporting whether they feel afraid to walk alone at night in their own neighborhood

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Is there any area right around here--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

	1973		1974		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984		1985		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	41%	59%	45%	55%	44%	56%	45%	54%	43%	56%	47%	53%	42%	57%	40%	59%	38%	51%
Sex																		
Male	20	80	24	76	23	77	23	76	21	79	28	72	19	81	21	78	17	83
Female	59	40	63	36	61	39	63	37	60	39	60	39	57	41	56	43	55	44
Race																		
White	39	61	43	57	44	56	43	57	42	58	45	55	39	60	38	62	36	63
Black/other	54	45	60	40	48	51	59	40	52	47	61	39	54	43	60	39	50	50
Age																		
18 to 20 years	33	67	43	55	45	55	45	55	45	54	28	72	27	73	24	76	38	62
21 to 29 years	40	59	44	56	40	60	39	60	41	59	47	52	39	59	40	59	40	59
30 to 49 years	40	60	40	59	40	60	41	59	39	60	43	57	37	62	35	64	34	66
50 years and older	43	57	50	50	49	51	51	48	47	52	50	49	49	49	46	53	43	56
Education^a																		
College	35	64	42	57	36	64	41	58	42	58	49	50	40	59	36	63	38	62
High school graduate	44	55	44	55	47	52	46	53	44	55	46	54	42	57	41	58	39	61
Less than high school graduate	41	58	51	49	48	52	47	52	42	57	43	56	46	51	51	48	39	59
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	38	62	39	60	40	60	40	60	42	58	50	50	40	59	36	63	37	63
Clerical	55	44	59	40	56	43	60	39	53	46	57	43	51	48	46	53	47	53
Manual	41	58	40	60	40	60	41	59	38	62	39	60	39	60	41	58	36	63
Farmer	26	72	28	72	14	84	17	83	15	82	8	92	13	87	19	81	18	82
Region																		
Northeast	47	52	47	53	54	46	53	47	47	53	46	54	44	55	44	55	34	66
Midwest	40	60	39	60	34	66	36	63	33	66	40	60	35	64	30	68	37	63
South	39	61	47	53	42	58	47	52	44	55	50	50	48	51	44	56	42	58
West	38	61	48	51	50	50	46	54	52	48	53	47	39	61	44	55	40	60
Religion																		
Protestant	41	59	43	56	43	57	45	55	43	56	45	54	44	55	41	58	37	63
Catholic	43	56	50	48	46	54	45	54	45	55	49	51	40	58	39	60	43	56
Jewish	44	56	50	50	63	37	60	40	50	50	81	19	59	41	53	47	47	53
None	32	68	38	62	43	57	40	59	38	62	40	60	22	77	36	64	36	64
Politics																		
Republican	35	65	48	52	42	57	44	56	41	57	43	57	42	56	36	63	35	65
Democrat	46	53	45	54	49	50	48	52	46	54	51	49	46	52	47	52	40	60
Independent	39	61	42	58	39	61	41	58	41	59	44	56	37	62	35	63	39	60

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
40%	59%	40%	60%	41%	58%	43%	56%	43%	57%	47%	52%	42%	57%
16	83	19	80	19	81	24	76	26	73	30	69	26	74
56	42	55	45	58	41	58	41	55	44	60	39	55	44
39	60	38	62	39	60	41	59	40	60	45	54	40	59
45	53	52	46	50	48	56	44	58	42	56	43	51	48
27	73	47	53	43	57	52	48	31	66	44	56	45	55
38	61	42	58	33	65	40	60	40	60	49	50	39	60
32	67	33	67	38	62	39	61	38	62	43	57	40	59
51	48	45	54	48	51	49	49	51	48	51	47	45	54
36	62	40	60	39	60	43	56	42	58	45	54	40	59
41	58	38	62	41	58	42	58	44	56	48	51	43	56
51	49	45	55	51	48	50	50	45	55	53	47	44	54
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	39	61	41	59	34	66
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	63	42	58	42	58
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43	57	46	53	43	57
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	49	54	45	48	50
37	62	41	59	36	63	39	61	44	56	44	55	39	60
54	46	49	51	56	42	51	48	43	57	58	41	51	47
35	64	33	67	38	61	41	59	42	58	42	57	40	60
18	82	20	80	28	72	24	76	24	76	36	64	27	70
41	57	35	65	40	59	36	62	44	56	44	56	41	58
33	66	39	61	36	64	42	57	34	66	39	60	39	60
44	56	42	58	46	52	43	57	46	54	54	45	44	55
43	57	41	59	41	58	51	49	48	52	46	53	42	57
42	57	41	58	43	56	45	54	44	56	48	52	44	55
38	60	38	62	38	61	36	63	41	59	45	54	36	63
71	24	53	47	61	39	67	33	65	35	58	39	51	46
22	77	34	66	32	64	39	61	33	66	41	58	34	65
41	59	37	62	41	58	36	63	42	58	45	54	36	64
44	56	46	54	47	52	48	51	48	51	51	49	51	48
35	63	33	67	35	64	44	56	39	61	44	55	38	61

Table 2.40

Respondents' reported worries about criminal victimizationBy race and ethnicity, United States, 1996^a

Question: "I want to ask you how much you worry about each of the following situations. Do you worry very frequently, somewhat frequently, seldom, or never about . . .?"

	Very frequently	Somewhat frequently	Seldom	Never
Getting murdered	10.6%	12.4%	38.4%	38.6%
White	6.3	12.2	41.4	40.1
Black	23.6	17.3	30.9	28.2
Hispanic	32.5	2.6	26.0	39.0
Getting beaten up, knifed, or shot	12.5	20.3	40.2	27.1
White	9.0	20.1	43.2	27.7
Black	25.5	17.3	34.5	22.7
Hispanic	29.5	17.9	29.5	23.1
Yourself or someone in your family getting sexually assaulted	18.1	29.0	32.1	20.8
White	14.2	31.1	34.7	20.0
Black	31.8	20.0	22.7	25.5
Hispanic	40.0	17.3	18.7	24.0
Your home being burglarized	20.4	28.9	34.1	16.7
White	17.6	28.9	36.7	16.9
Black	22.7	30.9	31.8	14.5
Hispanic	47.4	19.2	14.1	19.2

Note: See Note, table 2.16.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.41

Teenagers' attitudes toward the main reason kids use drugsUnited States, 1996^a

Question: "I'm going to read to you some possible things someone your age may get out of using drugs. Please tell me which of the following you think is the main reason kids use drugs?"

Reason	Percent
They think they're cool doing drugs	29%
They want to do what their friends do	23
It makes them feel good	20
It relieves stress or boredom	12
They have serious personal problems	6
It's a way of rebelling against being told what to do	5
There's alcohol or drug abuse in the family	4
Nothing at all	(b)
Don't know/no response	1

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, and parents of teenagers. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. Subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews. In total, 1,200 teen interviews and 1,166 parent interviews were completed. Households in which both a teen and parent were interviewed accounted for 819 teen and 819 parent interviews. Weighting was applied in the parent survey data to bring the sex of parent distribution in line with national population data.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bLess than 0.5%.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), p. 57. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.42

Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest reason teenagers do not use drugs

United States, 1997

Question: "What is the biggest reason teenagers your age DO NOT use illegal drugs?"

Reason	Teenagers		
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17
Afraid of permanent damage	23%	25%	20%
Parents or school officials finding out	19	18	20
Morally wrong	11	10	11
Keep them from doing well in school	10	10	9
Afraid of their parents	7	5	8
Against the law	7	10	4
Don't know where to buy	2	3	2
They do use drugs	2	1	3
Don't know/no response	12	12	12

Note: See Note, table 2.6.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), p. 61. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.43

Teenagers reporting attitudes and experiences related to drugs and alcohol

United States, 1997

(Percent responding in the affirmative)

	Teenagers	
	12 years old	17 years old
Would report someone selling illegal drugs at school	78%	26%
Would report someone using illegal drugs at school	75	24
Can buy marijuana within a day	16	65
Know someone who sells illegal drugs	10	52
Half or more friends drink	5	46
Know someone fairly well who has used acid, cocaine, or heroin	15	50
Teachers have great deal of influence over teen drug use	38	8
Half or more friends use marijuana	4	34
Have personally witnessed the sale of illegal drugs in neighborhood	6	33
Favor drug testing students at school	67	47
Favor a zero-tolerance policy at school	82	65
Favor drug testing student athletes at school	72	57
Favor random locker searches in school	57	51
Drugs are a teen's biggest problem	38	41

Note: See Note, table 2.6.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), p. 40. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.44

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward American culture glamorizing certain problem behaviors

United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think American culture--I mean, movies, music, TV, fashion--glamorizes. . .?"

	Teenagers		Parents	
	Does	Does not	Does	Does not
Smoking cigarettes	66%	33%	65%	33%
Drinking alcohol	69	30	84	15
Using illegal drugs	41	57	53	46

Note: See Note, table 2.41. The "don't know/no response" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), pp. 58, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.45

Teenagers' attitudes toward juveniles who commit violent crimes being tried as adults

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "Do you think that juveniles who are 13 years old who are accused of committing a violent crime should be tried in the same court as adult offenders, or in juvenile court?"

	Adult court	Juvenile court	Depends
National	56%	37%	6%
Sex			
Male	59	35	6
Female	54	39	7
Age			
13 to 15 years	56	37	7
16 and 17 years	59	36	6

Note: See Note, table 2.7. The "don't know/no answer" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.46

Respondents responding too little is spent on selected problems in this country

United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of the problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (problem) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (problem)?"

(Percent responding "too little")

	Halting the rising crime rate	Dealing with drug addiction	Improving the Nation's education system	Improving the conditions of blacks	Welfare
1973	64%	65%	49%	32%	20%
1974	66	60	50	31	22
1975	65	55	49	27	23
1976	65	58	50	27	13
1977	65	55	48	25	12
1978	64	55	52	24	13
1981	69	59	52	24	13
1982	71	57	56	28	20
1983	67	60	60	29	21
1984	68	63	64	35	24
1985	63	62	60	31	18
1986	64	58	60	34	22
1987	68	65	62	35	21
1988	72	71	66	38	24
1989	73	71	69	36	24
1990	70	64	71	37	22
1991	65	58	67	34	22
1993	71	60	67	36	16
1994	75	60	71	31	13
1996	67	58	68	32	15

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.47

Attitudes toward the level of spending to halt the rising crime rate

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1982-96

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (halting the rising crime rate) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (halting the rising crime rate)?"

	1982			1983			1984			1985			1986			1987		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	72%	18%	5%	67%	24%	5%	68%	25%	4%	63%	28%	5%	64%	27%	5%	68%	24%	4%
Sex																		
Male	71	19	7	64	28	6	64	28	6	61	29	7	59	32	6	66	26	4
Female	72	18	4	69	22	4	71	21	3	66	26	4	67	24	4	70	22	4
Race																		
White	71	19	5	66	26	4	67	26	5	63	28	5	63	28	5	68	24	4
Black/other	74	15	7	75	14	7	74	19	4	62	26	9	68	20	4	70	23	5
Age																		
18 to 20 years	89	9	2	51	44	0	67	25	8	80	20	0	75	20	0	68	21	5
21 to 29 years	71	22	5	70	24	4	68	28	3	67	29	2	65	29	4	65	27	5
30 to 49 years	73	19	5	67	25	4	68	24	5	62	30	5	62	30	4	65	26	5
50 years and older	70	18	5	65	22	7	67	24	5	62	26	8	64	24	6	74	19	3
Education^a																		
College	72	19	6	65	27	4	68	28	3	61	30	4	62	30	3	62	30	5
High school graduate	75	17	4	70	23	4	69	21	6	67	26	5	66	25	6	73	19	4
Less than high school graduate	60	21	6	57	19	13	63	28	2	52	30	15	60	24	6	74	19	3
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	73	19	6	66	26	5	62	32	5	63	28	4	60	32	3	62	29	4
Clerical	76	17	4	67	26	3	76	20	2	68	23	5	68	23	5	61	36	3
Manual	70	19	6	67	23	6	68	23	6	62	28	7	65	23	7	75	16	5
Farmer	50	31	12	64	28	0	64	36	0	46	46	4	68	32	0	76	18	0
Region																		
Northeast	72	18	5	68	22	6	75	18	6	60	28	6	63	30	3	63	28	7
Midwest	71	19	5	66	26	3	70	25	2	62	29	6	63	27	4	73	20	3
South	73	18	4	67	22	5	65	26	4	67	24	4	66	22	7	68	22	4
West	70	19	7	65	26	6	62	29	7	60	32	6	62	33	3	67	27	4
Religion																		
Protestant	71	19	5	68	23	5	68	24	4	63	29	6	64	26	4	70	22	5
Catholic	74	18	4	66	25	4	70	24	4	66	24	5	66	27	3	66	30	2
Jewish	78	11	3	70	16	7	67	33	0	76	6	12	52	39	9	60	40	0
None	65	24	8	59	31	5	56	31	11	52	37	2	54	28	14	64	19	7
Politics																		
Republican	69	20	7	67	25	5	63	29	4	62	29	6	61	32	3	63	30	3
Democrat	75	16	4	70	22	5	72	23	3	66	27	4	70	23	4	74	19	4
Independent	69	20	5	64	25	5	68	23	6	61	29	6	59	29	6	64	26	6

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

1988			1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
68%	23%	4%	72%	20%	5%	70%	22%	4%	65%	27%	5%	71%	20%	5%	75%	16%	6%	67%	23%	7%
67	25	4	70	20	7	70	22	5	58	33	6	65	26	7	72	19	7	64	26	8
69	22	4	74	19	3	70	22	3	69	23	4	76	16	4	78	14	6	70	21	6
67	24	4	71	21	5	68	23	4	63	29	4	70	22	4	74	16	7	65	24	8
73	19	6	81	13	3	78	14	6	75	17	6	76	15	8	80	14	3	76	19	4
63	26	0	67	29	0	64	24	8	56	44	0	67	24	0	82	15	3	76	13	5
63	32	2	72	20	6	72	24	1	63	26	6	78	17	4	84	12	3	71	24	4
74	19	4	71	20	5	69	22	5	61	32	5	71	22	5	74	19	6	69	23	7
66	22	6	74	18	4	70	20	4	71	22	4	67	21	6	72	15	8	62	24	8
71	24	2	72	21	4	71	23	3	58	32	6	72	23	4	74	18	6	66	25	7
68	24	3	73	19	5	70	20	5	70	25	3	73	17	6	77	14	6	71	21	5
61	17	12	73	16	6	58	29	6	70	15	9	58	25	9	72	14	8	66	19	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	21	2	72	20	7	64	27	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	75	19	4	76	17	6	67	24	7
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	17	5	79	15	4	71	20	6
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	68	21	6	76	13	6	69	22	6
68	25	4	72	19	5	66	26	3	58	32	7	68	25	5	73	20	5	64	26	8
66	25	5	80	18	0	74	19	2	69	26	2	76	16	4	77	12	7	69	23	7
70	22	2	70	22	6	70	20	6	66	26	5	72	19	5	78	13	6	71	20	5
70	20	0	77	8	15	57	21	14	76	18	6	53	20	27	48	31	17	57	24	10
70	22	3	73	20	3	70	25	3	67	30	2	72	21	3	76	17	4	64	27	7
63	28	3	70	24	4	63	28	2	67	27	4	71	22	2	76	18	3	70	23	4
72	20	5	76	16	4	75	16	5	66	24	7	71	17	7	74	14	8	68	20	8
67	24	5	69	20	8	69	18	7	56	31	5	68	24	6	75	16	7	66	23	8
66	24	4	74	20	4	71	21	4	66	25	5	70	20	5	75	16	6	67	23	7
72	21	3	72	21	5	67	25	4	66	30	3	76	20	2	79	14	6	68	23	6
94	6	0	91	9	0	71	18	12	56	33	6	77	18	0	75	18	4	67	26	0
64	29	4	57	22	12	67	28	2	58	36	4	65	24	10	69	22	9	61	26	9
67	26	5	72	24	3	65	27	6	62	30	6	68	25	3	70	19	8	63	24	10
72	21	4	80	12	5	70	23	2	71	24	3	75	18	5	79	14	4	68	24	4
67	22	3	63	25	7	76	17	4	62	27	6	71	18	6	76	16	5	69	22	7

Table 2.48

Attitudes toward the level of spending to deal with drug addiction

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1982-96

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (dealing with drug addiction) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (dealing with drug addiction)?"

	1982			1983			1984			1985			1986			1987		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	57%	27%	8%	60%	30%	5%	63%	27%	6%	62%	28%	5%	58%	32%	6%	65%	28%	4%
Sex																		
Male	57	26	11	60	29	7	62	27	7	61	27	8	55	36	7	62	31	4
Female	57	28	6	59	30	4	64	28	4	62	30	2	60	29	5	68	26	4
Race																		
White	55	28	8	59	30	5	63	28	5	62	28	5	57	32	6	66	28	4
Black/other	68	19	9	62	25	7	65	24	9	59	30	9	66	27	5	60	28	6
Age																		
18 to 20 years	53	36	6	56	42	0	58	42	0	60	40	0	50	40	10	58	26	10
21 to 29 years	52	36	7	56	35	6	59	35	4	62	29	6	53	42	4	57	40	2
30 to 49 years	62	26	8	61	30	5	67	24	6	64	29	5	59	33	6	65	29	4
50 years and older	56	22	10	61	25	6	62	25	8	61	26	6	60	24	7	70	22	6
Education^a																		
College	54	33	7	57	33	6	63	30	4	59	32	5	54	39	5	59	36	4
High school graduate	59	26	8	61	30	5	64	27	6	67	25	5	61	28	7	69	23	4
Less than high school graduate	56	19	11	60	19	13	61	22	12	49	31	11	58	23	7	71	19	5
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	56	32	8	55	34	7	62	30	5	59	31	5	54	37	6	63	31	5
Clerical	56	31	6	60	32	4	63	32	3	61	32	3	62	30	2	61	34	5
Manual	58	24	9	60	28	6	65	23	7	64	25	7	60	28	8	67	26	4
Farmer	54	27	15	80	18	0	64	27	9	50	38	8	63	32	5	65	24	12
Region																		
Northeast	55	27	11	58	31	6	70	23	6	66	25	6	54	34	4	71	26	2
Midwest	56	30	6	57	34	5	62	30	4	61	29	5	61	30	5	61	32	4
South	63	23	8	66	24	4	64	25	6	62	26	6	58	30	8	66	26	5
West	49	31	10	56	31	8	56	33	6	59	35	4	58	34	7	62	30	6
Religion																		
Protestant	59	26	8	60	29	5	61	28	6	64	28	4	60	29	7	67	26	4
Catholic	55	32	7	62	30	5	69	25	5	62	29	6	55	37	4	64	32	3
Jewish	49	32	8	52	36	7	78	22	0	65	18	6	52	35	4	60	20	20
None	48	27	16	49	34	8	56	33	8	49	38	6	54	33	7	51	37	7
Politics																		
Republican	51	32	10	57	32	6	57	30	8	58	31	5	52	37	7	58	38	3
Democrat	64	23	6	65	26	4	64	28	5	64	27	5	62	29	6	74	20	4
Independent	53	29	10	55	32	6	67	24	4	63	27	6	58	30	6	57	32	6

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

1988			1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
68%	24%	4%	71%	19%	6%	64%	26%	7%	58%	32%	7%	60%	27%	8%	60%	26%	9%	58%	27%	11%
72	21	5	74	15	7	60	28	8	48	41	8	55	32	9	57	28	11	58	26	12
66	27	3	68	22	6	67	24	5	64	26	7	64	23	7	62	25	7	58	27	10
67	25	4	69	20	6	63	27	6	54	34	8	58	29	8	57	28	10	55	29	12
75	20	5	80	11	6	68	20	7	72	19	4	73	19	7	73	17	5	71	18	8
50	40	5	67	33	0	68	24	8	69	31	0	62	33	5	58	33	6	66	26	3
57	34	7	69	22	7	66	28	4	57	34	7	61	32	4	66	28	3	60	31	6
73	22	2	72	18	6	66	26	5	58	32	8	60	28	8	58	30	8	57	28	13
71	20	4	71	18	7	61	26	9	56	30	8	60	24	10	60	20	12	58	23	12
70	25	4	74	19	4	64	29	6	52	36	8	56	32	8	55	32	9	55	30	12
67	26	3	69	19	8	67	22	7	60	31	7	65	23	6	66	22	7	61	26	10
68	17	8	65	20	12	50	28	13	72	16	6	58	18	18	56	17	15	64	19	10
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	31	9	58	30	10	53	31	14
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62	28	7	56	32	8	57	30	11
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	66	26	7	68	24	8	64	26	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62	25	8	62	21	9	61	24	9
68	25	4	73	18	6	62	30	6	53	34	11	54	34	9	55	30	10	53	29	14
64	29	3	67	23	4	68	26	3	61	28	6	66	20	9	61	28	7	58	26	13
72	22	4	71	18	7	63	24	9	56	34	7	64	25	7	65	22	8	62	25	8
90	10	0	77	8	15	71	14	14	53	35	0	50	36	14	52	38	7	48	19	14
71	23	5	69	20	4	58	29	8	56	34	7	67	21	8	61	25	8	57	28	12
68	27	2	73	18	6	63	28	7	57	35	6	58	30	6	59	31	7	61	25	10
66	24	4	71	18	7	71	23	4	64	25	8	61	26	10	62	23	10	57	26	12
70	21	6	70	21	7	61	25	9	48	38	8	55	32	6	56	28	9	58	28	10
68	24	4	72	18	7	67	25	6	60	29	6	60	26	8	62	25	8	60	26	10
71	24	3	69	23	3	58	30	8	55	36	6	60	30	10	58	28	9	60	26	10
67	33	0	91	9	0	65	29	0	48	28	22	54	27	9	64	29	7	59	26	11
64	23	9	59	21	16	57	26	12	42	42	1	56	31	10	53	29	13	52	28	15
68	26	4	69	23	5	60	32	7	51	37	10	50	34	12	54	31	9	49	32	16
70	24	4	80	12	5	64	25	6	66	23	6	70	23	4	67	22	7	68	22	7
67	24	4	61	26	9	69	22	6	55	35	6	58	27	8	58	28	9	57	27	11

Table 2.49

Attitudes toward the justice systems' dealing with people who commit crime

United States, 1996

Question: "I would like to ask you a few questions about dealing with people who commit crime. Please tell me for each of the following statements whether or not you think each is very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, not very important, or not important at all. How important is it to you that the criminal justice system. . . ? "

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not important at all
Process cases efficiently	78.6%	17.6%	1.1%	1.3%	0.2%
Treat people who have been accused of a crime fairly	67.4	25.9	1.9	2.9	0.8
Decide cases quickly	64.5	25.8	2.0	5.5	1.0
Provide legal assistance for persons accused of crime who cannot afford a lawyer	60.7	29.7	1.4	4.9	2.1
Respect the constitutional rights of persons accused of crimes	60.1	28.2	1.8	6.3	2.0
Limit the ability of persons convicted of crimes to appeal their convictions	41.8	33.2	4.8	11.1	5.4

Note: See Note, table 2.16. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.50

Attitudes toward severity of courts in own area

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1982-96

Question: "In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?"

	1982			1983			1984			1985			1986			1987		
	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right
National	3%	86%	8%	4%	86%	6%	3%	82%	11%	3%	84%	9%	3%	85%	8%	3%	79%	12%
Sex																		
Male	2	84	9	4	84	8	5	80	12	4	84	10	4	84	8	4	78	14
Female	3	88	6	3	86	6	2	83	10	3	85	8	3	86	8	3	80	11
Race																		
White	2	87	7	3	87	6	3	84	10	3	85	9	2	87	8	2	81	12
Black/other	10	79	9	10	74	8	6	71	16	5	80	8	9	77	9	7	70	14
Age																		
18 to 20 years	0	90	5	4	87	7	7	73	11	6	78	14	8	79	8	0	76	17
21 to 29 years	0	81	12	4	85	6	6	78	12	6	79	10	5	81	9	4	78	9
30 to 49 years	3	85	8	3	86	8	3	83	11	3	85	9	3	86	8	4	78	13
50 years and older	2	89	5	3	86	6	6	84	11	2	87	8	2	88	7	2	82	12
Education^a																		
College	3	83	11	4	82	8	2	82	11	3	83	11	2	84	9	3	77	14
High school graduate	2	89	5	4	89	5	4	82	10	4	86	7	3	88	7	3	84	9
Less than high school graduate	4	84	6	3	81	7	2	79	14	4	81	10	4	81	9	5	71	18
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	1	85	12	2	84	7	2	83	11	2	84	11	1	88	8	2	80	13
Clerical	3	92	2	2	92	4	2	86	9	2	90	6	4	88	7	2	81	12
Manual	3	84	7	6	83	8	4	80	11	5	83	8	4	83	9	5	78	11
Farmer	5	79	16	3	87	5	3	87	10	3	89	5	3	83	6	2	82	12
Region																		
Northeast	1	85	6	2	88	7	3	82	11	2	86	8	3	88	6	3	82	10
Midwest	1	90	7	2	87	5	4	82	11	3	85	9	3	87	7	4	80	10
South	5	83	9	2	85	6	3	80	11	4	82	11	4	82	10	4	78	14
West	3	87	7	4	81	9	2	83	11	4	84	8	3	85	8	3	79	12
Religion																		
Protestant	3	87	7	3	86	6	2	82	12	3	84	10	3	85	8	3	80	12
Catholic	2	88	6	3	87	6	4	82	10	3	87	8	2	88	6	2	81	12
Jewish	0	91	9	2	86	9	0	89	0	3	78	6	8	90	3	0	80	20
None	2	72	14	5	74	12	7	72	13	6	76	10	4	72	14	7	70	7
Politics																		
Republican	1	89	7	2	90	5	2	88	9	2	88	8	2	87	8	2	86	10
Democrat	4	87	7	4	84	7	4	80	11	3	84	10	3	88	6	4	78	13
Independent	2	84	9	4	84	7	3	80	12	5	82	8	3	82	10	4	76	12

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988			1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right
4%	82%	10%	3%	84%	9%	3%	83%	9%	4%	80%	11%	3%	81%	10%	3%	85%	8%	5%	78%	11%
5	79	13	4	79	12	3	82	11	5	78	12	5	81	10	3	83	9	5	78	11
3	84	8	1	87	6	4	83	8	3	81	11	2	82	10	2	87	6	4	78	10
3	83	10	2	83	10	3	84	9	3	80	12	2	82	10	2	86	8	3	79	11
8	73	11	4	87	3	8	77	8	10	76	8	9	76	11	5	82	8	11	72	10
8	84	8	10	83	8	10	80	5	3	70	20	16	74	7	7	70	14	11	75	5
8	77	10	2	86	8	5	80	9	8	77	9	2	86	8	4	81	9	6	76	10
3	82	11	3	83	9	4	81	10	4	80	11	4	81	9	2	87	7	5	79	11
2	83	9	2	84	9	2	86	8	3	81	12	2	81	11	2	86	7	3	78	11
3	78	13	2	81	10	4	82	10	4	78	12	3	80	11	2	84	10	5	76	12
4	85	7	3	86	8	4	83	9	5	82	9	4	84	8	4	87	6	3	82	9
3	82	8	3	82	8	3	86	6	2	78	17	5	78	9	3	86	6	6	77	9
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	81	10	2	84	9	4	78	12
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	85	10	2	87	8	4	82	10
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	86	7	2	87	7	4	76	13
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	78	11	4	84	7	6	76	10
3	83	10	2	82	11	3	82	11	3	78	11	2	80	12	2	83	10	3	78	11
3	84	9	1	87	7	4	84	8	3	80	12	3	83	8	2	88	6	5	81	9
4	81	10	4	84	8	3	84	8	5	82	11	5	82	9	3	86	6	5	77	11
8	79	8	0	86	9	0	85	15	0	89	8	3	94	3	5	81	10	4	81	8
6	83	9	2	86	5	4	83	10	4	83	8	2	82	11	3	86	6	6	76	12
4	80	11	3	81	12	4	80	10	3	78	12	4	79	11	2	84	8	5	75	13
3	83	10	3	86	8	3	85	8	5	82	10	4	84	8	2	86	8	4	81	9
5	80	8	3	80	11	4	82	9	4	73	16	4	80	10	3	84	9	4	77	11
4	83	9	2	85	9	3	85	8	4	81	10	3	82	9	2	87	7	4	80	10
3	86	9	3	83	9	4	84	8	2	80	13	3	82	9	3	85	7	5	79	11
3	73	17	0	96	0	0	82	15	0	81	9	0	81	12	2	79	10	3	76	9
11	64	18	7	72	9	1	74	16	8	72	14	3	77	14	3	76	12	8	70	10
2	85	9	1	91	6	2	87	8	2	82	11	3	85	8	2	88	7	4	84	10
5	80	10	3	83	10	4	82	9	5	79	12	4	79	12	3	85	8	5	75	13
4	80	11	4	77	10	5	80	10	5	79	10	4	81	9	3	84	8	5	76	9

Table 2.51

Attitudes toward a law requiring teenagers to pass a drug test to get a drivers' license

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law in your State which would require teenagers to pass a drug test in order to get their drivers' license?"

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ refused
National	71%	26%	3%
Sex			
Male	63	34	3
Female	78	17	5
Race			
White	69	27	4
Black	86	11	3
Nonwhite ^a	81	15	4
Age			
18 to 29 years	70	27	3
30 to 49 years	68	29	3
50 to 64 years	77	18	5
50 years and older	76	20	4
65 years and older	75	22	3
Education			
College post graduate	64	31	5
College graduate	58	40	2
Some college	73	24	3
No college	76	21	3
Income			
\$50,000 and over	68	30	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	71	25	4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	69	26	5
Under \$20,000	79	20	1
Community			
Urban area	69	27	4
Suburban area	69	28	3
Rural area	79	17	4
Region			
East	71	26	3
Midwest	67	28	5
South	75	22	3
West	70	27	3
Politics			
Republican	73	24	3
Democrat	76	21	3
Independent	64	31	5

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.52

Attitudes toward a law requiring anyone renewing or obtaining a new drivers' license to pass a drug test

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law in your State which would require anyone renewing or obtaining a new drivers' license to pass a drug test?"

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ refused
National	68%	27%	5%
Sex			
Male	62	32	6
Female	72	24	4
Race			
White	68	28	4
Black	68	29	3
Nonwhite ^a	68	26	6
Age			
18 to 29 years	62	34	4
30 to 49 years	65	31	4
50 to 64 years	75	21	4
50 years and older	75	19	6
65 years and older	76	16	8
Education			
College post graduate	66	32	2
College graduate	61	37	2
Some college	68	28	4
No college	70	24	6
Income			
\$50,000 and over	70	27	3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	61	36	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	76	19	5
Under \$20,000	69	28	3
Community			
Urban area	61	32	7
Suburban area	70	26	4
Rural area	76	22	2
Region			
East	74	21	5
Midwest	61	36	3
South	67	29	4
West	69	23	8
Politics			
Republican	71	26	3
Democrat	71	26	3
Independent	62	30	8

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.53

Attitudes toward the most important goal of prison

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Once people who commit crimes are in prison, which of the following do you think should be the most important goal of prison?"

	Rehabilitation	Punishment	Crime prevention/ deterrence
National	48.4%	14.6%	33.1%
Sex			
Male	48.6	16.8	30.5
Female	48.2	12.5	35.5
Race, ethnicity			
White	47.7	16.1	31.9
Black	56.4	11.8	30.9
Hispanic	42.3	7.7	42.3
Age			
18 to 24 years	50.7	17.6	29.6
25 to 39 years	47.5	14.3	33.5
40 to 59 years	49.1	13.6	33.2
60 years and older	46.3	16.5	33.5
Education			
College graduate	54.9	11.5	28.5
Some college	50.9	14.5	32.4
High school graduate	40.4	17.1	38.3
Less than high school graduate	47.6	15.3	31.5
Income			
Over \$60,000	53.3	15.7	26.2
\$30,000 to \$60,000	49.3	11.7	36.0
\$15,000 to \$29,999	47.7	15.4	34.4
Less than \$15,000	47.1	18.6	30.0
Community			
Urban	54.2	8.9	31.5
Suburban	46.7	13.9	34.1
Small city	46.1	17.8	33.9
Rural/small town	48.0	16.1	32.8
Region			
Northeast	52.0	17.1	27.4
Midwest	49.6	14.3	34.6
South	44.2	14.7	35.7
West	51.0	13.3	30.9
Politics			
Republican	43.3	14.9	39.0
Democrat	53.8	13.5	30.0
Independent/other	47.5	17.0	31.5

Note: See Note, table 2.16. The "other," "don't know," and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.54

Attitudes toward the effectiveness of various alternatives to prison

United States, 1996

Question: "To reduce crowding in jails and prisons, state and local officials use various alternatives to prisons. How effective do you think each of the following alternatives to prison are at protecting citizens against crime? Would you say it is very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not effective at all at protecting citizens against crime?"

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not very effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
Regular probation supervision	15.6%	49.6%	21.0%	10.9%	3.0%
Electronic monitoring of offenders	24.7	43.2	14.6	10.5	6.7
House arrest (home confinement)	12.4	39.6	21.9	19.7	6.1
Requiring offenders to pay fines					
instead of other penalties	11.4	33.9	29.3	20.2	5.1
Weekend jail sentences	10.5	34.3	25.8	24.0	5.4
Short-term boot camps	30.0	41.0	12.5	7.0	9.3
Requiring probationers to work					
to repay victims	43.3	38.5	9.9	5.7	2.4
Requiring probationers to perform					
community services	28.3	46.7	15.3	6.8	2.7
Intensive probation supervision					
(close monitoring)	18.8	51.1	16.7	8.2	5.1

Note: See Note, table 2.16. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.55

Attitudes toward the penalty for murderUnited States, selected years 1985-97^a

Question: "What do you think should be the penalty for murder--the death penalty, or life imprisonment with absolutely no possibility of parole?"

	Death penalty	Life imprisonment without possibility of parole	No opinion ^b
1985	56%	34%	10%
1986	55	35	10
1991	53	35	11
1992	50	37	13
1993	59	29	12
1997	61	29	10

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bIncludes volunteered responses such as "other," "neither," and "depends."Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 383 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1997), p. 34. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.56

Attitudes toward the death penalty

United States, selected years 1965-97

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

	Believe in it	Opposed to it	Not sure
1965	38%	47%	15%
1969	48	38	14
1970	47	42	11
1973	59	31	10
1976	67	25	8
1983	68	27	5
1997	75	22	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., June 11, 1997), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.57

Attitudes toward the death penalty

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

	Believe in it	Opposed to it
National	75%	22%
Sex		
Male	80	19
Female	71	25
Race, ethnicity		
White	80	17
Black	46	53
Hispanic	72	28
Region		
East	71	26
Midwest	72	24
South	76	22
West	84	14
Politics		
Republican	87	11
Democrat	67	31
Independent	72	23

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., June 11, 1997), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.58

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murderBy demographic characteristics, United States, 1996^a

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/ refused
National	73.4%	19.9%	6.7%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	81.7	13.7	4.6
Female	65.6	25.7	8.7
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	77.2	16.5	6.3
Black	58.6	32.4	9.0
Hispanic	61.0	33.8	5.2
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	70.4	26.8	2.8
25 to 39 years	70.6	23.4	6.0
40 to 59 years	77.0	14.1	8.9
60 years and older	73.0	20.2	6.7
<u>Education</u>			
College graduate	67.2	26.4	6.4
Some college	74.5	18.5	7.1
High school graduate	80.5	14.5	5.0
Less than high school graduate	67.2	21.3	11.5
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$60,000	74.1	19.7	6.1
\$30,000 to \$60,000	78.8	16.6	4.6
\$15,000 to \$29,999	71.0	20.7	8.3
Less than \$15,000	65.0	30.0	5.0
<u>Community</u>			
Urban	65.3	28.7	6.0
Suburban	76.7	15.3	8.0
Small city	71.8	21.0	7.2
Rural/small town	75.0	19.0	6.0
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	67.6	26.7	5.7
Midwest	75.5	15.0	9.5
South	72.2	21.6	6.2
West	77.1	17.7	5.2
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	81.0	14.1	4.9
Democrat	68.0	26.4	5.6
Independent/other	72.8	18.5	8.7

Note: See Note, table 2.16.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.59

Attitudes toward the death penalty if murderers were given sentence of life without parole

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "If you knew that murderers would be given a true life sentence without the possibility of parole, would you continue to favor the death penalty?"

	Yes	No	Don't know
National	75.7%	20.1%	3.9%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	81.6	15.6	2.8
Female	68.8	25.3	5.2
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	77.5	18.2	3.8
Black	61.5	35.4	3.1
Hispanic	74.5	21.3	4.3
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	74.0	24.0	2.0
25 to 39 years	77.6	16.9	4.8
40 to 59 years	71.8	23.8	4.1
60 years and older	81.7	14.2	4.2
<u>Education</u>			
College graduate	75.9	18.1	6.0
Some college	80.1	17.4	2.5
High school graduate	72.2	23.1	3.7
Less than high school graduate	74.4	22.0	3.7
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$60,000	77.5	20.1	2.4
\$30,000 to \$60,000	75.2	21.0	3.4
\$15,000 to \$29,999	76.2	17.4	5.2
Less than \$15,000	71.4	23.1	5.5
<u>Community</u>			
Urban	75.2	18.3	6.4
Suburban	77.4	19.5	3.2
Small city	72.3	23.8	3.8
Rural/small town	75.9	19.3	3.9
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	73.1	22.7	3.4
Midwest	79.0	16.6	3.4
South	74.3	21.4	4.3
West	76.0	19.8	4.2
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	79.4	17.4	3.2
Democrat	69.3	25.5	5.2
Independent/other	75.1	20.4	4.0

Note: See Note, table 2.16. This question was asked only of the respondents who answered "yes" to the question in table 2.58. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.60

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1976-96

Question: "Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

	1976		1977		1978		1980		1982		1983		1984		1985	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	66%	30%	67%	26%	66%	28%	67%	27%	74%	20%	73%	22%	70%	24%	76%	19%
<u>Sex</u>																
Male	73	24	75	22	74	24	75	21	80	16	80	16	77	19	80	17
Female	60	34	61	30	61	31	61	32	69	24	68	27	66	27	72	22
<u>Race</u>																
White	68	28	70	24	69	25	70	24	77	18	76	19	75	20	79	17
Black/other	44	51	46	47	44	48	40	51	51	42	49	44	46	46	53	35
<u>Age</u>																
18 to 20 years	55	42	69	30	63	33	70	27	68	26	64	29	68	27	69	29
21 to 29 years	58	38	62	31	64	31	66	31	74	20	74	22	76	19	75	20
30 to 49 years	69	27	67	27	67	28	69	26	74	21	76	19	70	24	76	18
50 years and older	68	26	70	23	68	25	66	25	74	20	71	25	67	26	76	20
<u>Education</u> ^a																
College	63	33	66	29	66	29	67	30	71	21	75	22	73	22	73	22
High school graduate	68	27	69	24	68	26	71	23	78	17	75	20	71	23	78	17
Less than high school graduate	61	30	65	29	60	31	56	33	64	26	61	29	59	33	72	21
<u>Income</u>																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																
Professional/business	67	30	64	28	68	28	68	28	72	23	73	23	75	20	76	19
Clerical	66	27	64	26	72	23	69	26	79	17	78	18	71	23	76	19
Manual	68	29	71	25	65	28	68	26	73	21	71	23	69	25	76	19
Farmer	70	20	74	20	76	20	71	15	77	15	85	10	61	39	76	22
<u>Region</u>																
Northeast	70	26	64	31	67	28	68	26	74	22	70	25	74	20	74	21
Midwest	65	31	68	25	69	24	66	26	72	21	75	21	65	28	73	20
South	63	31	64	28	64	30	66	28	74	21	70	25	68	27	76	19
West	65	32	77	20	64	31	70	25	76	18	79	16	78	16	79	17
<u>Religion</u>																
Protestant	65	30	67	26	67	27	67	26	73	21	74	22	70	24	76	19
Catholic	68	27	70	25	68	27	71	23	76	20	72	22	72	23	78	19
Jewish	74	26	66	26	79	21	75	22	73	19	67	26	85	4	62	31
None	55	41	64	34	58	38	54	39	73	16	72	26	68	26	75	20
<u>Politics</u>																
Republican	73	23	74	21	73	23	77	18	79	16	85	13	80	16	83	13
Democrat	65	30	67	27	63	31	63	31	71	24	67	28	64	30	70	24
Independent	62	34	64	29	66	27	66	28	73	20	72	22	70	23	75	19

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
71%	23%	70%	24%	71%	22%	74%	20%	74%	19%	72%	22%	72%	21%	74%	20%	71%	22%
79	17	73	22	77	18	81	16	79	18	77	19	78	16	79	17	79	17
66	28	67	26	66	26	69	24	71	21	67	25	67	24	71	22	65	25
75	20	74	21	76	18	77	18	78	16	75	19	75	18	78	16	75	18
49	43	46	43	46	44	57	36	58	36	53	37	54	38	56	34	54	35
68	24	64	36	61	35	69	25	66	34	60	33	70	23	73	21	70	22
72	23	69	27	73	24	71	24	79	16	74	23	69	26	72	21	72	22
70	27	74	21	72	21	76	20	74	21	71	22	73	20	75	20	71	22
74	20	66	26	70	22	74	19	74	18	71	21	73	20	75	18	71	21
72	23	70	26	71	23	72	22	73	21	69	25	69	24	73	21	69	24
73	23	73	20	73	20	77	18	77	18	74	20	75	18	77	17	76	17
64	26	54	38	59	27	69	24	70	21	72	21	71	18	67	25	68	23
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	73	22	77	18	75	20
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	18	76	18	74	18
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	81	14	75	19	72	24
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	25	71	22	64	25
76	21	72	25	72	21	75	19	72	20	67	25	70	23	75	20	70	22
70	25	74	19	72	21	73	21	81	14	73	22	72	21	74	19	73	20
69	25	68	24	71	24	74	21	74	22	75	20	74	19	75	19	72	21
83	17	65	28	67	29	91	4	78	7	81	11	74	21	74	18	72	20
70	26	72	23	66	26	72	19	75	20	71	23	65	26	70	24	66	26
69	26	67	26	70	24	72	22	76	20	70	24	72	18	72	20	72	22
67	26	67	26	72	21	75	21	72	20	71	22	75	19	76	19	72	20
83	13	76	19	76	17	76	19	76	16	76	20	72	24	78	16	74	19
72	23	70	24	72	22	75	20	75	19	72	22	74	20	75	18	72	20
69	26	70	24	73	21	73	20	76	18	75	21	68	22	75	19	70	23
79	16	80	10	63	23	87	13	74	15	53	34	70	21	72	26	63	28
73	24	65	28	67	26	71	24	72	24	65	28	72	23	73	20	69	22
80	15	83	14	81	12	82	14	83	12	84	13	81	13	84	12	85	12
66	30	61	32	62	32	68	26	68	24	63	29	64	30	65	28	61	30
72	23	69	24	72	20	73	21	74	21	69	23	71	20	76	17	70	21

Table 2.61

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murderUnited States, selected years 1953-95^a

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

	Yes, in favor	No, not in favor	No opinion ^b
1953	68%	25%	7%
1956	53	34	13
1957	47	34	18
1960	53	36	11
1965	45	43	12
1966	42	47	11
1967	54	38	8
1969	51	40	9
1971	49	40	11
1972 ^c	50	41	9
1972 ^d	57	32	11
1976	66	26	8
1978	62	27	11
1981	66	25	9
1985	72	20	8
1988	79	16	5
1991	76	18	6
1994	80	16	4
1995	77	13	10

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bMay include other response categories such as "depends" or "refused."^cMar. 3-5.^dNov. 10-13.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 357 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, June 1995), p. 25. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.62

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

	Yes, in favor	No, not in favor	Depends
National	77%	13%	8%
Sex			
Male	80	12	6
Female	74	15	9
Race			
White	81	10	7
Black	53	31	14
Nonwhite ^a	56	30	12
Age			
18 to 29 years	80	14	4
30 to 49 years	77	13	8
50 to 64 years	79	12	7
50 years and older	75	12	11
65 years and older	71	13	14
Education			
College post graduate	69	22	7
College graduate	75	17	6
Some college	81	9	8
No college	76	14	8
Income			
\$50,000 and over	81	14	4
\$30,000 to \$49,999	82	7	9
\$20,000 to \$29,999	75	14	8
Under \$20,000	71	17	11
Community			
Urban area	72	17	8
Suburban area	83	9	7
Rural area	79	11	8
Region			
East	75	17	8
Midwest	78	10	9
South	77	12	8
West	78	15	6
Politics			
Republican	89	7	4
Democrat	67	20	10
Independent	76	13	9

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 357 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, June 1995), p. 25; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.63

Respondents reporting having a gun in their home

United States, selected years 1959-97

Question: "Do you have a gun in your home?"

	Yes	No
1959	49%	51%
1965	48	52
1968	50	50
1972	43	55
1975	44	54
1980	45	53
1983	40	58
1985	44	55
1989	47	51
1990	47	52
1991	46	53
March 1993	48	51
October 1993	51	48
1996	38	60
1997	42	57

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 37; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.64

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent reporting having any firearms)

	1973	1974	1976	1977	1980	1982	1984	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1996
National	47%	46%	47%	51%	48%	45%	45%	44%	46%	40%	46%	43%	40%	42%	41%	40%
Sex																
Male	53	51	52	55	56	54	53	54	51	50	55	53	50	53	50	47
Female	43	42	43	47	41	39	40	36	43	33	39	34	32	34	33	34
Race																
White	49	48	58	53	50	48	48	46	49	43	50	45	42	45	44	44
Black/other	38	32	37	34	29	30	30	29	33	28	23	29	29	26	24	24
Age																
18 to 20 years	50	34	38	54	48	51	44	39	43	33	35	40	22	48	42	35
21 to 29 years	43	48	45	45	48	41	37	40	35	34	33	34	36	38	34	32
30 to 49 years	51	49	52	55	50	51	48	48	51	42	48	46	40	44	41	39
50 years and older	46	44	44	49	46	44	49	44	47	42	50	42	42	42	43	47
Education^a																
College	45	42	44	45	41	39	42	40	43	37	41	37	34	38	38	38
High school graduate	50	48	50	54	51	51	48	49	50	43	51	47	46	46	44	46
Less than high school graduate	44	49	42	51	51	41	43	38	44	39	46	47	39	47	37	38
Income																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	49	52	49
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	48	50	44
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	44	38	44
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	32	28	26
Occupation																
Professional/business	48	45	46	48	45	42	42	40	45	39	46	38	35	38	38	39
Clerical	42	43	40	49	45	39	41	40	45	37	37	38	35	36	36	40
Manual	48	48	48	52	48	49	48	48	46	41	52	50	47	51	45	43
Farmer	83	79	62	66	81	77	84	78	75	82	87	83	56	68	67	67
Region																
Northeast	22	27	29	32	27	32	32	28	31	25	32	30	28	29	26	24
Midwest	51	49	48	53	52	48	44	48	46	41	46	44	42	41	46	42
South	62	59	60	62	59	52	52	53	55	47	53	52	50	52	48	48
West	47	42	44	46	44	47	49	40	47	42	48	39	32	39	35	39
Religion																
Protestant	56	52	53	57	56	52	52	50	52	46	53	48	46	47	46	46
Catholic	35	37	36	39	36	36	34	35	36	31	36	36	30	36	34	34
Jewish	14	7	26	17	6	11	22	9	25	0	18	6	10	9	18	11
None	32	40	43	50	39	37	36	44	39	41	36	34	31	37	32	35
Politics																
Republican	53	49	50	56	53	50	56	47	51	46	50	48	42	51	49	49
Democrat	44	45	45	49	46	44	42	47	44	39	43	40	41	35	37	35
Independent	49	47	48	50	47	44	40	39	44	36	46	42	37	42	39	38

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.65

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By type of firearm and demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?" If yes, "Is it a pistol, shotgun, rifle, or what?"

(Percent reporting having a firearm)

	Firearm in the home			
	Any type	Type of firearm ^a		
		Pistol	Shotgun	Rifle
National	40%	56%	62%	58%
Sex				
Male	47	57	70	64
Female	34	54	52	53
Race				
White	44	55	64	62
Black/other	24	59	40	26
Age				
18 to 20 years	35	39	67	44
21 to 29 years	32	55	60	54
30 to 49 years	39	59	60	60
50 years and older	47	53	64	58
Education^b				
College	38	58	59	58
High school graduate	46	55	64	64
Less than high school graduate	38	48	66	48
Income				
\$50,000 and over	49	57	66	64
\$30,000 to \$49,999	44	58	61	64
\$20,000 to \$29,999	44	59	58	52
Under \$20,000	26	50	59	51
Occupation				
Professional/business	39	57	61	61
Clerical	40	57	54	58
Manual	43	53	66	56
Farmer	67	75	65	85
Region				
Northeast	24	50	61	60
Midwest	42	43	69	61
South	48	60	64	56
West	39	66	49	57
Religion				
Protestant	46	55	65	58
Catholic	34	55	56	59
Jewish	11	100	25	50
None	35	58	56	61
Politics				
Republican	49	62	70	62
Democrat	35	54	52	53
Independent	38	51	61	60

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aPercents for pistol, shotgun, and rifle are based on the 40% subsample of respondents reporting that they have a gun in their home. Percents add to more than 100 because some respondents reported owning more than one type.^bIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.66

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent saying "yes")

National	40%
Race, ethnicity	
White	45
Black	17
Hispanic	37
Education	
College post graduate	30
College graduate	35
Some college	40
High school graduate	45
Less than high school graduate	36
Income	
\$50,001 and over	47
\$35,001 to \$50,000	52
\$25,001 to \$35,000	54
\$15,001 to \$25,000	28
\$7,501 to \$15,000	25
\$7,500 or less	17
Community	
City	25
Suburb	40
Small town	58
Rural area	62
Region	
East	29
Midwest	45
South	46
West	39
Politics	
Conservative	52
Moderate	36
Liberal	30

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Aug. 26, 1996), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.67

Respondents reporting owning a firearm

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you own a handgun, rifle, shotgun or any other type of firearm?"

	Yes	No
National	37%	62%
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	55	44
Female	21	78
<u>Race</u>		
White	43	56
Black	20	80
<u>Age</u>		
18 to 29 years	32	68
30 to 44 years	34	65
45 to 64 years	47	52
65 years and older	42	57
<u>Education</u>		
College graduate	29	71
Some college	37	62
High school graduate	36	62
Less than high school graduate	47	52
<u>Income</u>		
More than \$60,000	36	63
\$40,000 to \$60,000	45	54
\$20,000 to \$39,999	37	63
Less than \$20,000	32	65
<u>Community</u>		
City	25	74
Suburb	34	66
Small town	42	56
Rural	51	48
<u>Region</u>		
East	33	66
Midwest	35	64
South	49	49
West	28	72
<u>Politics</u>		
Republican	45	55
Democrat	31	68
Independent	41	58

Note: These data are from a nationwide telephone survey of 1,333 adults age 18 and older, including 1,265 registered voters, conducted by the Los Angeles Times Poll Sept. 7-10, 1996. Telephone numbers were generated from a computer list that includes all telephone exchanges in the Nation. Random-digit dialing techniques were used to ensure that both listed and unlisted residences had an opportunity to be contacted. Results were adjusted to conform with U.S. Bureau of the Census figures on characteristics such as sex, race, age, education, region, and political party identification. The "not sure" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.68

Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

	More strict	Less strict	Kept as they are now	Don't know/refused
National	61%	9%	26%	4%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	48	13	36	3
Female	73	5	17	5
<u>Race</u>				
White	59	9	28	4
Black	77	4	17	2
Nonwhite ^a	75	4	16	5
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	65	8	25	2
30 to 49 years	61	10	26	3
50 to 64 years	57	9	29	5
50 years and older	60	7	27	6
65 years and older	63	6	24	7
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	65	7	24	4
College graduate	58	14	23	5
Some college	66	8	23	3
No college	58	8	30	4
<u>Income</u>				
\$50,000 and over	61	11	26	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	59	9	29	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	62	6	29	3
Under \$20,000	66	7	23	4
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	72	6	19	3
Suburban area	57	10	29	4
Rural area	51	10	34	5
<u>Region</u>				
East	68	8	20	4
Midwest	63	4	29	4
South	55	11	30	4
West	62	10	23	5
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	51	13	33	3
Democrat	73	4	20	3
Independent	58	10	26	6

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.69

Attitudes toward restricting the sale of handguns

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Now I am going to read you a list of some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it: Restricting the sale of handguns?"

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose
National	29.5%	23.7%	25.9%	18.6%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	21.8	24.7	29.1	22.2
Female	36.4	22.7	22.9	15.3
<u>Race</u>				
White	29.3	23.9	25.7	18.7
Black	30.9	22.0	27.9	17.1
Nonwhite ^a	31.1	22.4	26.7	17.9
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	29.7	27.8	23.3	18.3
30 to 49 years	28.5	25.1	24.8	19.4
50 to 64 years	31.0	20.5	26.3	20.0
65 years and older	29.7	16.2	33.3	15.2
<u>Education</u>				
College graduate	41.5	24.0	18.8	13.9
Some college	26.0	28.0	27.1	17.6
High school graduate	26.6	21.9	28.5	20.2
Less than high school graduate	24.8	21.5	27.4	22.5
<u>Family income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	37.7	23.2	20.5	17.1
\$50,000 to \$74,999	30.5	27.7	24.4	15.9
\$30,000 to \$49,999	26.4	24.4	25.5	22.0
\$20,000 to \$29,999	30.7	23.9	26.2	16.6
Under \$20,000	27.2	23.0	30.1	18.0
<u>Region</u>				
Northeast	34.2	20.2	22.3	20.2
Midwest	31.2	22.8	28.3	15.8
South	26.8	24.9	25.8	19.7
West	27.4	26.1	26.5	18.4
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	22.8	27.2	28.0	19.7
Democrat	34.0	22.0	26.4	15.8
Independent	31.8	23.1	22.3	20.4

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of a nationwide sample of 1,975 adults, 18 years of age and older. The interviews were conducted May 31-June 9, 1996 by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.70

Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

	1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	74%	25%	75%	24%	74%	24%	72%	27%	72%	26%	69%	29%	72%	26%	70%	27%
Sex																
Male	67	32	66	33	66	32	64	35	64	35	63	36	68	31	62	37
Female	79	19	83	15	80	17	78	20	78	19	74	23	75	23	76	20
Race																
White	73	25	75	24	73	25	71	27	70	28	68	30	71	27	69	29
Black/other	74	24	77	22	81	15	74	24	81	17	81	15	78	19	79	18
Age																
18 to 20 years	73	27	75	23	74	26	78	22	69	31	71	29	77	23	71	24
21 to 29 years	76	23	77	23	79	19	71	27	72	26	73	27	76	24	73	25
30 to 49 years	72	26	76	24	70	27	73	25	70	29	70	29	72	26	70	29
50 years and older	74	24	74	24	73	24	70	29	74	24	67	29	69	29	70	26
Education^a																
College	76	23	77	22	76	22	71	27	74	25	70	29	76	23	74	25
High school graduate	73	25	75	23	74	24	72	27	70	28	69	29	71	27	68	30
Less than high school graduate	70	27	71	27	68	26	71	28	72	25	70	27	64	30	72	23
Income																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																
Professional/business	71	27	74	25	73	24	74	25	76	23	70	28	75	23	71	27
Clerical	78	21	84	16	81	18	78	20	75	22	77	21	77	23	76	23
Manual	74	24	74	24	70	27	68	30	68	30	67	32	69	29	68	29
Farmer	56	42	52	48	60	33	56	44	66	31	53	47	36	60	48	48
Region																
Northeast	88	10	88	12	85	12	86	13	85	14	86	13	85	13	80	18
Midwest	72	28	77	22	76	22	72	27	67	31	71	27	73	24	70	25
South	67	31	70	28	66	30	63	35	69	28	64	34	62	36	66	31
West	69	29	66	32	70	29	68	30	68	31	60	38	69	30	67	32
Religion																
Protestant	68	31	71	28	70	27	67	31	67	30	64	34	68	30	66	31
Catholic	83	15	85	14	83	15	82	18	80	20	83	16	81	17	79	20
Jewish	98	2	98	2	96	4	89	11	89	9	88	12	89	5	93	7
None	81	18	70	29	71	28	68	28	73	26	71	28	72	28	78	22
Politics																
Republican	70	28	74	25	74	23	71	27	71	26	64	35	66	33	66	32
Democrat	76	22	78	22	77	20	74	25	73	26	74	25	75	24	75	23
Independent	73	26	73	25	70	28	69	29	71	28	68	29	72	26	70	28

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
 For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1985		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
72%	26%	70%	28%	74%	24%	78%	21%	79%	20%	81%	18%	81%	17%	78%	20%	80%	18%
65	34	62	36	66	33	69	30	72	27	74	25	73	26	70	29	73	25
78	20	76	22	79	17	85	13	84	14	86	12	87	11	84	14	86	12
72	27	69	29	74	24	77	21	77	21	81	18	80	18	77	22	80	19
76	22	74	23	75	23	81	18	86	12	84	15	84	15	84	14	84	13
71	29	69	29	73	24	66	34	91	9	70	30	83	17	85	15	69	29
74	25	76	23	73	26	81	17	83	15	82	18	83	17	78	20	78	21
71	28	68	30	72	26	74	25	76	23	82	17	82	17	77	22	83	15
72	26	69	29	75	20	81	17	78	19	80	17	80	18	79	19	80	19
75	24	74	25	76	22	80	19	81	18	85	14	84	15	79	19	83	16
71	28	67	31	74	24	75	23	77	20	79	20	79	19	76	22	79	19
69	26	70	27	66	27	82	17	73	22	70	24	76	20	78	18	76	20
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	79	20	82	16
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	74	25	82	17
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	80	19	81	18
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	79	20	80	18	78	19
75	24	74	24	77	21	82	17	78	20	89	11	84	15	79	20	82	17
79	21	77	22	78	19	80	16	84	15	84	15	89	10	85	14	83	16
68	31	64	33	71	26	72	26	77	22	75	23	75	23	74	24	80	18
43	57	48	50	24	65	73	27	56	39	72	28	72	24	56	38	53	43
82	17	83	15	84	13	90	10	85	15	84	15	90	9	85	15	84	13
73	25	68	31	76	22	80	19	78	20	81	17	82	16	78	21	84	14
67	32	66	31	69	28	72	26	77	20	78	21	75	22	77	21	78	20
71	29	67	31	68	28	74	24	75	24	85	15	82	17	74	25	77	21
68	30	67	31	72	26	75	23	76	22	78	20	79	19	75	23	81	17
79	20	74	24	77	20	84	16	84	14	84	15	84	14	84	15	83	15
94	6	85	10	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	96	4	94	6	89	11
74	26	77	20	73	25	70	26	76	23	87	13	80	20	76	22	72	26
70	28	71	27	68	29	76	22	78	21	81	18	76	22	71	28	77	22
74	25	70	29	79	19	84	15	83	15	82	16	86	13	85	14	86	12
72	27	70	28	73	24	71	26	76	23	80	19	81	17	77	21	79	19

Table 2.71

Attitudes toward legalization of the use of marijuana

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?"

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986	
	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
National	18%	80%	20%	75%	28%	69%	30%	67%	25%	72%	20%	76%	23%	73%	18%	80%
Sex																
Male	22	75	25	69	32	64	34	63	30	67	25	71	28	68	23	75
Female	15	83	16	80	24	73	26	71	21	76	16	80	19	77	14	84
Race																
White	18	80	20	75	27	70	29	68	25	72	19	77	23	73	18	81
Black/other	18	79	22	71	33	60	38	59	27	71	28	69	22	75	19	77
Age																
18 to 20 years	42	56	34	56	57	39	51	48	45	52	33	67	36	62	16	82
21 to 29 years	38	60	40	54	49	48	49	49	42	56	29	68	34	62	27	71
30 to 49 years	14	84	18	79	25	72	29	69	27	71	21	76	27	68	20	79
50 years and older	9	89	9	86	16	81	16	80	13	84	13	83	9	87	12	87
Education^a																
College	32	66	35	59	40	56	42	55	35	61	23	74	29	66	22	75
High school graduate	15	83	16	79	26	70	27	70	23	75	21	76	21	75	17	82
Less than high school graduate	6	94	5	89	11	86	13	84	3	88	9	87	7	91	8	91
Income																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																
Professional/business	23	74	29	65	36	60	37	60	30	66	22	75	27	68	20	79
Clerical	15	83	20	76	26	72	27	71	23	75	18	79	22	72	16	82
Manual	17	82	17	79	25	71	28	69	23	74	22	75	20	77	19	79
Farmer	6	89	3	93	8	92	16	80	12	79	8	82	3	94	9	91
Region																
Northeast	22	74	26	70	32	64	33	62	27	70	20	76	24	74	20	80
Midwest	20	78	20	75	25	72	26	72	20	77	18	79	23	72	16	82
South	11	89	12	84	22	74	27	72	20	78	17	80	20	76	14	84
West	24	73	32	63	37	61	38	59	38	57	30	66	26	70	25	73
Religion																
Protestant	14	84	15	81	22	74	24	74	20	77	17	80	20	76	15	83
Catholic	18	81	21	73	32	64	31	64	26	71	17	78	20	76	18	80
Jewish	33	67	48	48	37	63	62	38	28	62	33	54	48	48	40	60
None	52	43	53	43	54	39	64	33	60	36	54	44	44	50	37	60
Politics																
Republican	11	87	12	86	20	78	19	80	18	80	15	82	17	80	13	86
Democrat	17	82	19	77	26	71	29	67	24	73	20	77	21	75	18	80
Independent	25	72	26	67	34	62	37	60	30	66	24	72	28	68	21	76

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
 For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
16%	81%	17%	79%	16%	81%	16%	81%	18%	78%	22%	73%	23%	72%	26%	69%
19	78	21	74	20	76	19	79	23	74	27	68	27	69	30	66
14	83	14	82	14	84	14	82	14	81	19	76	20	75	22	72
17	80	17	80	18	80	17	80	18	78	22	73	23	73	26	69
12	84	18	75	10	85	13	82	16	76	20	75	24	71	22	70
21	74	16	74	19	75	22	78	21	79	24	69	50	50	38	60
25	70	24	70	21	76	19	76	25	73	25	70	24	71	30	66
19	79	19	78	19	78	19	79	22	74	27	67	26	70	28	67
8	90	12	86	11	86	12	85	10	86	15	81	17	78	19	75
21	75	20	75	20	77	18	79	21	74	25	70	26	69	27	68
13	84	16	80	15	82	16	81	16	81	19	76	22	74	24	71
10	88	12	88	9	88	12	87	8	88	19	80	10	84	22	72
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	72	24	70	25	70
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	72	21	76	25	71
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27	69	20	77	27	68
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	73	27	69	29	66
20	77	16	80	20	77	21	77	19	76	24	71	26	69	26	68
11	83	14	82	10	88	9	87	16	80	19	75	18	79	23	71
16	81	20	75	17	80	16	80	17	79	24	71	24	72	26	69
2	95	6	94	25	75	6	88	15	80	5	90	15	82	26	71
18	78	19	76	14	80	12	84	18	77	24	70	19	75	26	67
14	83	18	78	14	84	16	81	13	83	19	77	19	76	23	74
13	85	12	86	14	83	12	84	15	81	19	77	22	74	24	70
23	72	23	72	26	72	29	71	30	66	28	64	32	64	31	64
13	85	13	84	13	86	12	85	16	80	18	78	19	77	19	74
16	81	16	80	16	80	15	84	15	82	21	75	21	74	29	68
40	55	52	44	35	65	33	60	36	59	30	60	42	49	37	54
42	51	38	55	40	49	44	51	40	52	47	45	46	49	42	54
13	84	14	84	14	85	11	86	16	80	14	84	15	82	20	77
15	82	18	78	16	81	18	79	16	80	28	68	24	73	24	69
19	76	20	75	19	76	18	78	21	75	23	69	29	64	30	64

Table 2.72

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuanaUnited States, 1996^a

Question: "Do you favor or oppose the legalization of marijuana--meaning ending the laws against having and using marijuana?"

	Teenagers	Parents
Strongly favor	17%	8%
Somewhat favor	14	18
Somewhat oppose	18	13
Strongly oppose	47	57
Don't know/no response	5	4

Note: See Note, table 2.41.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), pp. 57, 67. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.73

High school seniors reporting that they worry about selected social problems

United States, 1985-97

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about each of the following?"

(Percent responding "often" or "sometimes")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,286)	Class of 1986 (N=3,073)	Class of 1987 (N=3,370)	Class of 1988 (N=3,326)	Class of 1989 (N=2,849)	Class of 1990 (N=2,595)	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)	Class of 1997 (N=2,651)
Crime and violence	82.3%	79.4%	81.9%	83.9%	86.3%	88.8%	88.1%	91.6%	90.8%	92.7%	90.2%	90.1%	86.5%
Drug abuse	69.1	69.2	75.4	78.6	79.5	82.6	79.5	77.8	75.5	76.7	72.6	71.0	71.1
Hunger and poverty	69.7	65.9	62.2	64.2	64.1	65.9	66.4	68.1	71.1	65.7	62.3	62.6	61.1
Chance of nuclear war	64.5	69.1	58.3	57.3	52.4	45.1	41.5	33.4	28.8	27.9	20.0	21.6	20.4
Economic problems	60.4	60.6	55.6	56.2	57.6	56.8	63.9	70.6	71.8	62.6	55.7	57.9	51.5
Pollution	46.9	44.2	45.2	45.5	55.9	67.2	72.1	71.9	72.8	66.5	63.6	62.9	61.6
Race relations	43.4	43.4	44.2	53.3	53.6	57.1	59.4	68.7	75.4	71.6	68.9	70.7	64.7
Energy shortages	33.7	28.7	28.1	25.1	27.9	32.6	38.2	35.2	29.8	23.8	17.9	19.2	19.4
Using open land for housing or industry	30.4	26.8	30.5	29.4	30.8	33.9	33.8	34.7	32.9	32.7	28.9	32.6	32.7
Population growth	25.7	24.1	26.6	27.5	29.6	33.0	30.6	35.2	38.9	35.4	34.9	37.4	38.2
Urban decay	17.9	17.0	18.5	19.9	19.8	20.4	21.7	25.8	25.3	25.6	23.0	25.1	22.1

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research from 1975 through 1997. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools throughout the continental United States. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables refer to the number of weighted cases.

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, pp. 174, 175; *1987*, pp. 180, 181; *1989*, pp. 180, 181; *1991*, pp. 188, 189; *1993*, pp. 190, 191; *1995*, pp. 191, 192 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, pp. 176, 177; *1988*, pp. 180, 181; *1990*, pp. 186, 187; *1992*, pp. 189, 190; *1994*, pp. 189, 190 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.74

High school seniors reporting that they worry about crime and violence

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about . . . crime and violence?"

(Percent responding "often" or "sometimes")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,286)	Class of 1986 (N=3,073)	Class of 1987 (N=3,370)	Class of 1988 (N=3,326)	Class of 1989 (N=2,849)	Class of 1990 (N=2,595)	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)	Class of 1997 (N=2,651)
Total	82.3%	79.4%	81.9%	83.9%	86.3%	88.8%	88.1%	91.6%	90.8%	92.7%	90.2%	90.1%	86.5%
Sex													
Male	76.6	70.8	73.7	76.0	80.9	84.8	82.6	87.6	85.7	88.4	85.8	84.8	79.4
Female	88.0	87.4	90.3	91.8	92.2	93.4	93.6	95.7	95.6	96.5	95.1	95.4	93.7
Race													
White	80.9	78.4	80.8	82.8	84.6	88.1	86.6	90.5	89.4	92.9	90.0	89.5	84.5
Black	88.9	81.9	94.2	88.2	91.8	92.7	94.5	96.9	95.1	90.7	93.0	92.9	90.4
Region													
Northeast	80.0	77.0	77.9	81.9	83.0	87.7	86.0	92.0	90.6	91.0	91.7	89.4	83.2
North Central	81.7	78.9	81.6	81.7	83.0	87.0	88.8	87.6	90.2	93.2	86.7	87.4	85.1
South	83.6	82.3	85.3	86.1	89.4	90.4	88.4	93.8	91.2	93.3	91.3	91.1	88.7
West	84.0	78.4	81.3	85.4	88.2	89.4	89.0	93.0	91.4	92.4	92.2	93.4	88.2
College plans													
Yes	83.3	80.9	82.8	85.4	88.0	89.8	89.9	93.1	92.4	94.1	92.6	91.6	88.4
No	81.4	77.2	79.4	80.8	82.8	88.0	83.9	87.7	85.8	89.4	84.0	86.2	80.7
Lifetime illicit drug use													
None	84.5	80.3	83.2	85.8	88.8	90.6	90.7	92.9	91.9	94.1	91.8	90.5	89.1
Marijuana only	80.5	79.2	81.7	83.9	86.6	87.1	85.4	89.6	91.1	91.5	90.9	91.9	85.7
Few pills	81.9	80.0	80.8	83.7	85.2	87.6	86.6	89.4	90.7	95.6	92.6	91.0	88.3
More pills	81.6	77.8	81.2	81.2	81.7	85.7	84.8	90.6	87.4	89.5	84.1	87.4	81.0

Note: See Note, table 2.73. Data are given for those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American because these are the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories because each of these groups comprises a small portion of the sample in any given year (Source, **1992**, p. 9). "College plans" distinguishes those seniors who expect to graduate from a 4-year college from those who expect to receive some college training or none. The four drug use categories are based on an index of seriousness of involvement. The "pills" category indicates use of any of a number of drugs including some that usually are not taken in pill form. Respondents indicating the use of one or more of a number of illicit drugs but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and did not use heroin at all fall into the "few pills" category. Respondents indicating such use on three or more occasions and who did not use heroin at all fall into the "more pills" category. Respondents reporting heroin use were included in a separate category that is not presented here due to the small number of respondents indicating such use. (Source, **1995**, pp. 8, 9, 14.)

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 174; **1987**, p. 180; **1989**, p. 180; **1991**, p. 188; **1993**, p. 190; **1995**, p. 191 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 176; **1988**, p. 180; **1990**, p. 186; **1992**, p. 189; **1994**, p. 189 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.75

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of selected institutions

United States, 1985-97

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by. . .?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,294)	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)
Large corporations	44.9%	47.6%	46.9%	47.4%	45.1%	38.4%	36.3%	31.8%	31.5%	34.6%	37.9%	36.3%	35.3%
Major labor unions	32.6	32.6	31.8	32.7	35.5	31.7	31.3	28.9	27.2	29.2	28.0	30.8	29.2
The Nation's colleges and universities	76.1	78.6	78.8	76.8	73.7	73.8	70.2	67.2	61.1	67.7	66.6	70.5	65.7
The Nation's public schools	43.3	46.8	46.2	44.2	37.9	36.1	33.6	32.5	29.0	27.2	31.8	30.6	30.0
Churches and religious organizations	55.1	54.8	48.4	47.4	47.3	47.0	49.2	50.3	46.9	50.3	50.2	49.0	48.3
The national news media (TV, magazines, news services)	58.8	65.5	58.8	58.3	55.3	54.7	51.1	47.9	40.5	37.9	33.1	34.5	34.8
The President and his administration	45.9	54.4	35.2	35.3	36.4	41.8	56.8	23.8	24.9	22.1	19.7	24.0	26.8
Congress--that is, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives	35.1	42.3	36.9	33.4	31.6	32.9	38.3	15.9	16.6	18.8	20.6	18.1	21.7
The U.S. Supreme Court	42.1	46.3	45.7	42.1	42.7	40.9	44.1	35.7	31.0	31.0	29.8	30.4	30.5
All the courts and the justice system in general	28.7	34.4	33.7	31.6	31.7	27.8	31.2	23.4	21.1	19.3	20.6	21.2	22.4
The police and other law enforcement agencies	37.3	40.5	39.5	37.4	33.6	34.3	28.0	26.9	27.1	29.3	28.7	27.6	28.7
The U.S. military	60.2	66.4	62.2	60.9	60.1	58.8	80.6	62.2	57.0	54.3	54.8	55.6	52.9

Note: See Note, table 2.73. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, pp. 126-128; *1987*, pp. 132-134; *1989*, pp. 132-134; *1991*, pp. 136-138; *1993*, pp. 138-140; *1995*, pp. 139-141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, pp. 129-131; *1988*, pp. 132-134; *1990*, pp. 135-137; *1992*, pp. 137-139; *1994*, pp. 137-139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.76

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the police and other law enforcement agencies

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . the police and other law enforcement agencies?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,294)	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)
Total	37.3%	40.5%	39.5%	37.4%	33.6%	34.3%	28.0%	26.9%	27.1%	29.3%	28.7%	27.6%	28.7%
Sex													
Male	38.1	39.9	40.4	37.3	33.5	33.4	29.3	27.4	30.1	30.2	29.1	28.6	30.3
Female	36.5	40.9	38.5	37.5	34.2	35.0	27.2	26.8	24.3	28.4	28.1	26.5	27.7
Race													
White	38.9	42.4	41.9	40.5	35.5	35.4	31.5	30.0	31.1	32.2	31.5	30.7	32.1
Black	29.4	30.3	24.8	22.6	28.3	22.4	11.0	12.4	9.2	16.9	16.8	14.6	16.3
Region													
Northeast	32.7	32.5	37.4	34.0	33.4	28.3	26.3	26.6	28.0	29.5	25.5	30.7	32.7
North Central	36.9	41.4	39.4	38.5	33.8	35.2	35.7	27.7	28.5	29.9	29.9	24.5	25.4
South	36.5	42.7	39.5	38.5	35.2	36.0	22.1	24.5	25.4	29.3	27.3	26.5	28.9
West	44.7	46.2	41.9	37.3	30.7	36.3	30.0	30.7	27.8	28.4	32.9	31.1	28.6
College plans													
Yes	38.6	39.9	40.7	38.7	34.2	34.0	28.5	25.8	26.9	29.5	28.9	27.8	29.3
No	34.9	42.6	38.3	35.4	34.0	33.8	28.7	31.0	27.3	29.7	29.4	28.1	26.6
Lifetime illicit drug use													
None	41.4	43.4	43.0	39.7	35.1	37.7	31.1	29.5	29.7	32.9	31.7	29.4	33.0
Marijuana only	39.3	39.6	39.8	35.1	33.1	33.6	27.0	23.5	24.0	25.8	26.3	25.5	27.7
Few pills	33.8	40.3	38.2	35.9	28.0	31.5	29.4	23.3	25.2	26.7	24.2	36.3	26.1
More pills	30.3	36.9	32.6	35.7	32.8	26.6	17.5	21.3	22.2	22.9	25.8	20.0	21.6

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 128; *1987*, p. 134; *1989*, p. 134; *1991*, p. 138; *1993*, p. 140; *1995*, p. 141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 131; *1988*, p. 134; *1990*, p. 137; *1992*, p. 139; *1994*, p. 139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.77

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the U.S. Supreme Court

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . the U.S. Supreme Court?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,294)	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)
Total	42.1%	46.3%	45.7%	42.1%	42.7%	40.9%	44.1%	35.7%	31.0%	31.0%	29.8%	30.4%	30.5%
Sex													
Male	43.9	48.8	50.0	44.6	45.8	44.6	46.2	39.7	34.5	32.6	35.0	35.6	33.3
Female	40.6	44.0	41.9	40.5	39.5	37.2	41.7	32.1	27.8	29.6	24.8	25.7	28.3
Race													
White	43.8	48.1	47.9	45.0	43.7	42.0	47.1	38.4	33.3	32.9	32.5	31.3	33.5
Black	37.8	42.3	38.5	32.0	37.0	36.9	29.9	27.8	23.8	22.9	21.9	27.5	22.3
Region													
Northeast	40.1	41.1	44.1	39.4	38.9	38.4	40.1	31.9	31.5	31.5	26.6	32.7	30.2
North Central	41.3	47.1	47.9	42.1	41.1	42.1	47.9	38.3	33.4	32.2	32.8	27.4	27.8
South	43.3	48.5	44.9	46.5	46.7	41.6	43.9	35.9	28.9	30.3	30.4	34.0	34.0
West	43.8	48.3	45.9	37.4	40.9	40.4	42.8	34.8	31.0	30.2	27.5	25.0	28.7
College plans													
Yes	45.5	47.8	49.2	45.8	44.5	42.4	47.5	37.8	34.0	33.6	30.9	31.6	32.1
No	36.4	44.0	39.7	35.9	39.7	36.7	36.3	31.6	23.3	24.7	27.1	25.9	26.7
Lifetime illicit drug use													
None	44.1	47.4	49.7	43.5	44.2	44.1	46.8	39.3	33.4	32.6	30.7	30.5	31.7
Marijuana only	43.0	48.7	44.7	41.5	41.6	38.6	41.6	31.3	29.6	30.0	29.6	33.1	30.7
Few pills	42.5	43.5	44.1	38.1	35.5	36.0	41.9	30.7	27.6	29.1	34.5	32.5	32.3
More pills	37.5	43.6	40.3	41.8	45.7	36.7	37.2	27.7	27.7	29.3	24.5	26.4	28.6

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 127; *1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.78

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the courts and the justice system in general

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . all the courts and the justice system in general?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1985 (N=3,294)	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)
Total	28.7%	34.4%	33.7%	31.6%	31.7%	27.8%	31.2%	23.4%	21.1%	19.3%	20.6%	21.2%	22.4%
Sex													
Male	30.0	33.0	36.1	31.7	33.2	30.9	33.8	25.3	24.0	20.5	22.3	25.7	23.9
Female	27.2	35.2	31.3	32.1	30.1	24.9	28.8	21.5	18.7	18.2	18.6	16.8	20.9
Race													
White	28.8	34.7	33.8	34.0	32.2	27.3	32.5	24.6	22.4	20.5	21.4	21.5	23.5
Black	28.9	35.4	30.9	21.6	26.8	26.4	23.5	18.6	13.6	12.0	17.3	20.8	17.6
Region													
Northeast	29.2	29.2	32.3	31.2	27.2	22.8	31.0	18.1	19.7	18.5	17.6	20.4	23.5
North Central	28.3	34.8	33.3	31.7	33.7	27.2	34.4	24.5	22.6	19.0	23.2	19.5	21.5
South	27.2	36.8	34.4	34.1	33.4	31.1	28.0	24.5	20.8	19.5	20.0	25.2	23.5
West	31.2	36.3	34.6	27.4	29.9	28.8	32.7	24.8	20.6	20.4	20.6	16.3	20
College plans													
Yes	28.9	34.2	34.7	32.7	32.3	27.6	32.7	24.0	21.8	20.6	20.4	20.6	22.8
No	27.7	34.6	31.8	30.2	31.2	27.8	27.6	22.8	17.6	16.4	21.0	23.2	21.6
Lifetime illicit drug use													
None	28.6	33.9	35.0	32.7	31.6	29.9	34.3	25.8	23.0	21.0	20.9	19.4	24.1
Marijuana only	31.4	36.4	33.8	31.5	33.2	25.7	29.3	22.0	19.6	18.3	19.5	23.4	21.8
Few pills	27.7	36.1	35.8	30.8	28.2	25.4	27.0	15.4	18.5	16.8	25.2	29.1	19.7
More pills	26.4	33.1	28.9	29.2	33.6	24.2	25.2	19.6	16.9	17.9	18.4	19.7	20.7

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 127; *1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.79

High school seniors' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they. . .?"

(Percent responding "great risk"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Class of 1985 (N=3,250)	Class of 1986 (N=3,020)	Class of 1987 (N=3,315)	Class of 1988 (N=3,276)	Class of 1989 (N=2,796)	Class of 1990 (N=2,553)	Class of 1991 (N=2,549)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,759)	Class of 1994 (N=2,591)	Class of 1995 (N=2,603)	Class of 1996 (N=2,449)	Class of 1997 (N=2,579)
Try marijuana once or twice	14.8%	15.1%	18.4%	19.0%	23.6%	23.1%	27.1%	24.5%	21.9%	19.5%	16.3%	15.6%	14.9%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	24.5	25.0	30.4	31.7	36.5	36.9	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7
Smoke marijuana regularly	70.4	71.3	73.5	77.0	77.5	77.8	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1
Try LSD once or twice	43.5	42.0	44.9	45.7	46.0	44.7	46.6	42.3	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7
Take LSD regularly	82.9	82.6	83.8	84.2	84.3	84.5	84.3	81.8	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6
Try PCP once or twice	NA	NA	55.6	58.8	56.6	55.2	51.7	54.8	50.8	51.5	49.1	51.0	48.8
Try cocaine once or twice	34.0	33.5	47.9	51.2	54.9	59.4	59.4	56.8	57.6	57.2	53.7	54.2	53.6
Take cocaine occasionally	NA	54.2	66.8	69.2	71.8	73.9	75.5	75.1	73.3	73.7	70.8	72.1	72.4
Take cocaine regularly	79.0	82.2	88.5	89.2	90.2	91.1	90.4	90.2	90.1	89.3	87.9	88.3	87.1
Try crack once or twice	NA	NA	57.0	62.1	62.9	64.3	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0
Smoke crack occasionally	NA	NA	70.4	73.2	75.3	80.4	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3
Take crack regularly	NA	NA	84.6	84.8	85.6	91.6	90.1	89.3	87.5	89.6	88.6	88.0	86.2
Try cocaine powder once or twice	NA	NA	45.3	51.7	53.8	53.9	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4
Take cocaine powder occasionally	NA	NA	56.8	61.9	65.8	71.1	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7
Take cocaine powder regularly	NA	NA	81.4	82.9	83.9	90.2	88.9	88.4	87.0	88.6	87.8	86.8	86.0
Try heroin once or twice	47.3	45.8	53.6	54.0	53.8	55.4	55.2	50.9	50.7	52.8	50.9	52.5	56.7
Take heroin occasionally	69.8	68.2	74.6	73.8	75.5	76.6	74.9	74.2	72.0	72.1	71.0	74.8	76.3
Take heroin regularly	86.0	87.1	88.7	88.8	89.5	90.2	89.6	89.2	88.3	88.0	87.2	89.5	88.9
Try amphetamines once or twice	25.2	25.1	29.1	29.6	32.8	32.2	36.3	32.6	31.3	31.4	28.8	30.8	31.0
Take amphetamines regularly	67.2	67.3	69.4	69.8	71.2	71.2	74.1	72.4	69.9	67.0	65.9	66.8	66.0
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	61.6	61.9	57.5	58.3	54.4	55.3	54.4
Try barbiturates once or twice	26.1	25.4	30.9	29.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	32.2	29.2	29.9	26.3	29.1	26.9
Take barbiturates regularly	68.3	67.2	69.4	69.6	70.5	70.2	70.5	70.2	66.1	63.3	61.6	60.4	56.8
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	5.0	4.6	6.2	6.0	6.0	8.3	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	24.4	25.1	26.2	27.3	28.5	31.3	32.7	30.6	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	69.8	66.5	69.7	68.5	69.8	70.9	69.5	70.5	67.8	66.2	62.8	65.6	63.0
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	43.0	39.1	41.9	42.6	44.0	47.1	48.6	49.0	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	66.5	66.0	68.6	68.0	67.2	68.2	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	63.8	69.9	65.6	70.7	69.1	66.1	66.4	67.6	67.2

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research for the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1975 through 1997. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools. Depending on the survey year, approximately 65% of the schools initially invited to participate agreed to do so. Completed questionnaires were obtained from approximately 83% of all sampled students in participating schools each year. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also were included in the survey. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables also refer to the number of weighted cases. "Crack" is a highly potent and addictive form of cocaine. Alcohol and cigarette use are included in selected tables. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 7](#).

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.80

Students' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1994-97

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . . ?"

(Percent responding "great risk"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade			
	1994 (N=17,394)	1995 (N=17,501)	1996 (N=17,926)	1997 (N=18,765)	1994 (N=15,880)	1995 (N=17,006)	1996 (N=15,670)	1997 (N=15,640)	1994 (N=2,591)	1995 (N=2,603)	1996 (N=2,449)	1997 (N=2,579)
Try marijuana once or twice	31.6%	28.9%	27.9%	25.3%	24.4%	21.5%	20.0%	18.8%	19.5%	16.3%	15.6%	14.9%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7
Smoke marijuana regularly	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1
Try inhalants once or twice ^b	37.9	36.4	40.8	40.1	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Take inhalants regularly ^b	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try LSD once or twice ^c	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7
Take LSD regularly ^c	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6
Try crack once or twice ^b	54.4	50.8	51.0	49.9	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0
Take crack occasionally ^b	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^b	48.4	44.9	45.2	45.0	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^b	69.1	66.4	65.7	65.8	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c	NA	60.1	61.3	63.0	NA	70.7	72.1	73.1	NA	55.6	58.6	60.5
Try heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	NA	76.8	76.6	79.2	NA	85.1	85.8	86.5	NA	71.2	71.0	74.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	11.6	11.6	11.8	10.4	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	29.9	30.5	28.6	29.1	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	54.7	54.1	51.8	55.6	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7
Take steroids ^d	67.6	NA	NA	NA	72.5	NA	NA	NA	66.1	66.4	67.6	67.2

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 through 1993 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

^bData for eighth and tenth grades in 1997 are based on two-thirds of N indicated, due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^cData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single form in 1994 through 1996; N is one-half of N indicated. In 1997, data were based on one-third of N indicated, due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^dData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.81

Young adults' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug, frequency of use, and age group, United States, 1985-97

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they. . .?"

(Percent responding "great risk"^a)

	Age groups												
	19 to 22 years old												
Type of drug and frequency of use	1985 (N=547)	1986 (N=581)	1987 (N=570)	1988 (N=551)	1989 (N=565)	1990 (N=552)	1991 (N=533)	1992 (N=527)	1993 (N=480)	1994 (N=490)	1995 (N=500)	1996 (N=469)	1997 (N=465)
Try marijuana once or twice	11.2%	13.0%	12.9%	16.8%	16.9%	17.8%	19.1%	19.7%	19.4%	18.8%	13.3%	16.9%	14.8%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	20.6	22.4	23.0	28.7	29.1	30.1	30.2	29.5	30.3	31.3	25.5	25.6	22.0
Smoke marijuana regularly	66.8	67.6	69.4	72.4	74.9	73.0	75.0	69.3	69.2	65.0	62.1	61.3	60.6
Try LSD once or twice	44.3	47.6	49.4	49.2	49.5	49.3	48.0	45.6	42.4	42.3	40.3	44.4	40.1
Take LSD regularly	86.4	87.1	85.6	85.4	85.5	85.8	86.6	87.0	81.3	81.0	80.5	82.4	83.6
Try cocaine once or twice	33.2	35.5	45.9	51.9	51.5	58.1	58.7	56.1	60.5	63.8	57.7	61.9	55.5
Take cocaine occasionally	NA	53.8	61.3	67.1	72.6	74.6	72.6	74.9	75.4	78.0	73.4	76.6	76.0
Take cocaine regularly	82.9	82.0	88.0	90.3	89.1	93.9	93.5	92.9	91.7	92.2	91.5	92.2	91.6
Try crack once or twice	NA	NA	59.4	67.3	68.5	69.4	66.9	65.4	63.5	70.1	61.9	65.2	62.0
Take crack occasionally	NA	NA	75.0	77.3	81.8	82.3	82.7	81.9	83.6	84.3	78.8	83.5	79.1
Take crack regularly	NA	NA	89.6	91.1	94.1	94.9	95.6	93.4	96.2	96.0	94.2	94.7	93.3
Try heroin once or twice	51.0	55.5	57.9	58.9	59.6	58.3	59.9	59.8	58.9	60.8	58.9	61.0	63.9
Take heroin occasionally	73.6	77.2	77.6	77.5	79.8	80.8	80.2	81.6	78.8	79.0	77.9	82.1	84.7
Take heroin regularly	90.2	90.7	90.2	89.6	90.8	91.2	91.5	92.2	89.2	91.2	89.9	94.0	93.7
Try amphetamines once or twice	23.9	27.1	27.4	31.7	28.9	35.6	32.8	34.5	33.3	36.3	32.9	36.8	30.1
Take amphetamines regularly	68.5	72.3	72.0	73.9	71.3	74.0	77.1	73.5	73.5	71.6	72.2	75.8	72.3
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.8	58.6	57.7	57.5	61.4	58.9	61.1	56.4
Try barbiturates once or twice	25.0	30.7	29.6	32.7	30.5	36.4	33.5	33.5	33.4	35.0	30.5	34.1	31.3
Take barbiturates regularly	71.7	74.5	73.0	74.0	71.7	75.5	75.5	73.6	71.1	69.4	66.4	70.7	69.5
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	3.1	5.4	3.5	3.9	5.9	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.6	6.5	4.5	3.3	3.2
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	26.3	27.3	26.1	26.5	28.1	30.1	29.1	30.2	28.0	27.5	24.0	23.0	24.2
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	74.1	74.0	76.4	72.8	75.7	76.1	75.5	71.8	72.1	70.3	72.5	68.5	71.4
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	40.2	34.6	36.7	36.9	42.4	40.6	40.8	41.8	42.4	41.9	39.9	40.7	36.6
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	71.4	70.4	70.6	71.0	73.4	72.5	77.9	72.6	76.0	71.2	71.6	73.8	76.3

Note: See Note, table 2.79. "Young adults" includes high school graduates 1 to 10 years beyond high school. Some data for 1995 have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 2, College Students and Young Adults, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

23 to 26 years old									27 to 30 years old					
1989 (N=498)	1990 (N=511)	1991 (N=505)	1992 (N=518)	1993 (N=503)	1994 (N=465)	1995 (N=445)	1996 (N=438)	1997 (N=420)	1992 (N=482)	1993 (N=473)	1994 (N=443)	1995 (N=448)	1996 (N=422)	1997 (N=434)
14.0%	17.7%	14.0%	15.0%	13.0%	15.0%	15.8%	18.5%	15.1%	15.1%	14.0%	14.8%	16.1%	16.2%	16.1%
25.3	30.4	26.2	27.4	24.0	25.5	27.7	27.3	26.4	27.5	26.8	28.1	28.3	28.1	26.0
72.1	71.0	70.9	67.3	64.1	63.2	64.2	62.7	64.0	68.8	69.4	65.6	69.2	67.3	65.0
50.7	52.0	50.1	49.7	49.0	46.8	45.8	46.1	46.6	53.0	51.5	53.5	52.5	50.1	51.9
89.0	88.2	89.1	87.3	85.3	87.5	86.3	84.7	85.6	88.5	89.0	89.2	88.4	87.0	87.2
51.3	51.5	50.5	53.5	54.1	56.0	58.7	57.2	63.1	51.8	54.7	53.5	56.4	53.6	54.6
69.9	69.9	70.3	69.9	72.8	70.3	76.0	71.3	76.4	69.9	69.1	69.9	70.0	67.8	73.8
91.2	91.2	92.7	89.9	91.9	92.6	93.3	90.6	93.2	92.0	91.6	92.1	91.3	91.6	92.7
69.8	67.3	66.9	67.1	64.2	69.3	64.8	68.6	64.7	64.3	68.8	65.6	66.4	66.7	68.5
79.9	81.1	83.9	84.4	81.6	83.2	81.4	85.9	80.8	79.1	83.6	78.6	81.1	81.3	85.2
91.5	94.2	95.4	94.1	93.4	94.9	95.5	96.1	91.4	93.3	93.5	93.0	94.0	94.3	96.0
62.3	64.1	62.4	63.7	65.0	63.3	64.1	63.5	67.3	66.5	69.3	69.6	66.4	66.4	67.9
80.8	83.4	84.4	81.5	82.1	80.8	85.3	82.4	86.5	84.9	86.2	86.8	83.1	83.8	85.8
91.3	91.0	92.6	91.3	91.6	93.0	93.5	92.7	94.4	91.3	92.6	93.8	92.4	92.1	93.8
32.5	35.3	31.0	32.7	32.6	32.9	34.3	34.9	37.8	36.2	34.0	37.5	36.0	36.2	34.5
76.7	77.8	79.4	76.4	76.2	73.6	80.5	78.5	79.1	80.3	79.8	78.4	77.7	75.6	77.4
NA	56.5	56.0	55.6	52.0	61.0	57.8	64.1	60.7	52.7	60.3	57.9	58.5	59.1	59.7
32.9	37.9	31.8	33.5	32.8	34.0	34.8	35.8	37.3	38.2	36.5	40.5	36.6	37.2	35.6
76.6	80.5	77.7	76.3	75.0	74.3	77.6	77.1	75.2	78.6	80.2	78.3	77.7	74.1	77.1
5.1	5.7	4.4	5.6	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.4	5.6	4.7	4.1	6.7	4.7	4.0
27.8	31.1	30.4	31.6	25.9	26.2	26.1	22.0	20.2	30.9	28.0	27.4	27.2	24.0	24.8
76.9	79.7	80.2	78.0	76.7	77.5	75.2	72.0	75.1	79.9	79.1	76.6	82.2	76.1	79.2
37.7	40.2	39.3	37.6	36.2	40.2	37.9	39.1	37.4	45.1	42.9	43.2	44.6	41.5	40.0
71.4	78.5	75.3	76.3	78.4	76.4	76.0	76.0	77.6	77.6	75.0	75.3	75.6	73.0	80.3

Table 2.82

Respondents' perceptions of the harmfulness of selected drug use behaviors

By age group, United States, 1996

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways, when they do each of the following activities?"

(Percent responding "great risk")

Risk behavior	Total all ages	Age group			
		12 to 17 years	18 to 25 years	26 to 34 years	35 years and older
Marijuana					
Smoke occasionally	44.1%	32.6%	28.4%	35.3%	52.1%
Smoke regularly	59.9	57.1	46.0	52.3	65.6
Cocaine					
Use occasionally	76.0	54.4	66.7	71.2	83.2
Use regularly	90.0	81.4	86.9	88.4	92.7
Alcohol					
Four or five drinks nearly every day	76.9	66.7	68.6	75.9	80.8
Five or more drinks once or twice a week	53.4	45.2	40.0	47.6	59.4
Cigarettes					
Smoke one or more packs per day	68.1	54.0	62.1	68.8	71.8

Note: These data are from the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Households were randomly sampled from all households in the United States and interviews were conducted throughout the year. Due to improved survey procedures implemented in 1994, these estimates are not comparable to previous year estimates and should not be used for trends with pre-1994 data.

Answer alternatives to the question were "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," and "great risk." The term "occasionally" is defined as once a month, and "regularly" is defined as once or twice a week.

For survey methodology, see Appendix 8.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1996* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1998), p. 156. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.83

High school seniors' perceptions of availability of drugs

By type of drug, United States, 1985-97

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent responding "fairly easy" or "very easy"^a)

Type of drug	Class of 1985 (N=3,274)	Class of 1986 (N=3,077)	Class of 1987 (N=3,271)	Class of 1988 (N=3,231)	Class of 1989 (N=2,806)	Class of 1990 (N=2,549)	Class of 1991 (N=2,476)	Class of 1992 (N=2,586)	Class of 1993 (N=2,670)	Class of 1994 (N=2,526)	Class of 1995 (N=2,552)	Class of 1996 (N=2,340)	Class of 1997 (N=2,517)
Marijuana	85.5%	85.2%	84.8%	85.0%	84.3%	84.4%	83.3%	82.7%	83.0%	85.5%	88.5%	88.7%	89.6%
Amyl and butyl nitrites	NA	NA	23.9	25.9	26.8	24.4	22.7	25.9	25.9	26.7	26.0	23.9	23.8
LSD	30.5	28.5	31.4	33.3	38.3	40.7	39.5	44.5	49.2	50.8	53.8	51.3	50.7
PCP	NA	NA	22.8	24.9	28.9	27.7	27.6	31.7	31.7	31.4	31.0	30.5	30.0
Some other psychedelic	26.1	24.9	25.0	26.2	28.2	28.3	28.0	29.9	33.5	33.8	35.8	33.9	33.9
MDMA (ecstasy)	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.7	22.0	22.1	24.2	28.1	31.2	34.2	36.9	38.8
Cocaine powder	NA	NA	52.9	50.3	53.7	49.0	46.0	48.0	45.4	43.7	43.8	44.4	43.3
Crack	NA	NA	41.1	42.1	47.0	42.4	39.9	43.5	43.6	40.5	41.9	40.7	40.6
Cocaine	48.9	51.5	54.2	55.0	58.7	54.5	51.0	52.7	48.5	46.6	47.7	48.1	48.5
Heroin	21.0	22.0	23.7	28.0	31.4	31.9	30.6	34.9	33.7	34.1	35.1	32.2	33.8
Some other narcotic (including methadone)	33.1	32.2	33.0	35.8	38.3	38.1	34.6	37.1	37.5	38.0	39.8	40.0	38.9
Amphetamines	66.4	64.3	64.5	63.9	64.3	59.7	57.3	58.8	61.5	62.0	62.8	59.4	59.8
Crystal methamphetamine (ice)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	24.1	24.3	26.0	26.6	25.6	27.0	26.9	27.6
Barbiturates	51.3	48.3	48.2	47.8	48.4	45.9	42.4	44.0	44.5	43.3	42.3	41.4	40.0
Tranquilizers	54.7	51.2	48.6	49.1	45.3	44.7	40.8	40.9	41.1	39.2	37.8	36.0	35.4
Steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.7	46.8	44.8	42.9	45.5	40.3	41.7

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.84

Students' perceptions of availability of drugs

By type of drug and student grade level, United States, 1994-97

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent responding "fairly easy" or "very easy"^a)

Type of drug	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade			
	1994 (N=16,119)	1995 (N=15,496)	1996 (N=16,318)	1997 (N=16,482)	1994 (N=15,192)	1995 (N=16,209)	1996 (N=14,887)	1997 (N=14,856)	1994 (N=2,526)	1995 (N=2,552)	1996 (N=2,340)	1997 (N=2,517)
Marijuana	49.9%	52.4%	54.8%	54.2%	75.0%	78.1%	81.1%	80.5%	85.5%	88.5%	88.7%	89.6%
LSD	21.8	23.5	23.6	22.7	36.1	39.8	41.0	38.3	50.8	53.8	51.3	50.7
PCP ^b	17.7	19.0	19.6	19.2	23.8	24.7	26.8	24.8	31.4	31.0	30.5	30.0
Crack	26.9	28.7	27.9	27.5	34.2	34.6	36.4	36.0	40.5	41.9	40.7	40.6
Cocaine powder	26.4	27.8	27.2	26.9	34.5	35.3	36.9	37.1	43.7	43.8	44.4	43.3
Heroin	19.4	21.1	20.6	19.8	24.7	24.6	24.8	24.4	34.1	35.1	32.2	33.8
Other opiates ^b	18.3	20.3	20.0	20.6	26.9	27.8	29.4	29.0	38.0	39.8	40.0	38.9
Amphetamines	31.0	33.4	32.6	30.6	46.6	47.7	47.2	44.6	62.0	62.8	59.4	59.8
Crystal methamphetamine (ice) ^b	14.1	16.0	16.3	15.7	17.8	20.7	22.6	22.9	25.6	27.0	26.9	27.6
Barbiturates	25.3	26.5	25.6	24.4	38.3	38.8	38.1	35.6	43.3	42.3	41.4	40.0
Tranquilizers	20.4	21.3	20.4	19.6	29.8	30.6	30.3	28.7	39.2	37.8	36.0	35.4
Alcohol	74.5	74.9	75.3	74.9	89.8	89.7	90.4	89.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Steroids	23.1	23.8	24.1	23.6	33.6	34.8	34.8	34.2	42.9	45.5	40.3	41.7

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1992 and 1993 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available.

^bData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated in 1994-97.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.85

High school seniors disapproving of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?"

(Percent responding "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Class of 1985 (N=3,265)	Class of 1986 (N=3,113)	Class of 1987 (N=3,302)	Class of 1988 (N=3,311)	Class of 1989 (N=2,799)	Class of 1990 (N=2,566)	Class of 1991 (N=2,547)	Class of 1992 (N=2,645)	Class of 1993 (N=2,723)	Class of 1994 (N=2,588)	Class of 1995 (N=2,603)	Class of 1996 (N=2,399)	Class of 1997 (N=2,601)
Try marijuana once or twice	51.4%	54.6%	56.6%	60.8%	64.6%	67.8%	68.7%	69.9%	63.3%	57.6%	56.7%	52.5%	51.0%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	65.8	69.0	71.6	74.0	77.2	80.5	79.4	79.7	75.5	68.9	66.7	62.9	63.2
Smoke marijuana regularly	85.5	86.6	89.2	89.3	89.8	91.0	89.3	90.1	87.6	82.3	81.9	80.0	78.8
Try LSD once or twice	89.5	89.2	91.6	89.8	89.7	89.8	90.1	88.1	85.9	82.5	81.1	79.6	80.5
Take LSD regularly	97.0	96.6	97.8	96.4	96.4	96.3	96.4	95.5	95.8	94.3	92.5	93.2	92.9
Try cocaine once or twice	79.3	80.2	87.3	89.1	90.5	91.5	93.6	93.0	92.7	91.6	90.3	90.0	88.0
Take cocaine regularly	93.8	94.3	96.7	96.2	96.4	96.7	97.3	96.9	97.5	96.6	96.1	95.6	96.0
Try crack once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	92.3	92.1	93.1	89.9	89.5	91.4	87.4	87.0
Smoke crack occasionally	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	94.3	94.2	95.0	92.8	92.8	94.0	91.2	91.3
Take crack regularly	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	94.9	95.0	95.5	93.4	93.1	94.1	93.0	92.3
Try heroin once or twice	94.0	93.3	96.2	95.0	95.4	95.1	96.0	94.9	94.4	93.2	92.8	92.1	92.3
Take heroin occasionally	96.8	96.6	97.9	96.9	97.2	96.7	97.3	96.8	97.0	96.2	95.7	95.0	95.4
Take heroin regularly	97.6	97.6	98.1	97.2	97.4	97.5	97.8	97.2	97.5	97.1	96.4	96.3	96.4
Try amphetamines once or twice	74.9	76.5	80.7	82.5	83.3	85.3	86.5	86.9	84.2	81.3	82.2	79.9	81.3
Take amphetamines regularly	93.3	93.5	95.4	94.2	94.2	95.5	96.0	95.6	96.0	94.1	94.3	93.5	94.3
Try barbiturates once or twice	84.9	86.8	89.6	89.4	89.3	90.5	90.6	90.3	89.7	87.5	87.3	84.9	86.4
Take barbiturates regularly	95.5	94.9	96.4	95.3	95.3	96.4	97.1	96.5	97.0	96.1	95.2	94.8	95.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	20.3	20.9	21.4	22.6	27.3	29.4	29.8	33.0	30.1	28.4	27.3	26.5	26.1
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	70.9	72.8	74.2	75.0	76.5	77.9	76.5	75.9	77.8	73.1	73.3	70.8	70.0
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	92.0	91.4	92.2	92.8	91.6	91.9	90.6	90.8	90.6	89.8	88.8	89.4	88.6
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	60.4	62.4	62.0	65.3	66.5	68.9	67.4	70.7	70.1	65.1	66.7	64.7	65.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	72.3	75.4	74.3	73.1	72.4	72.8	71.4	73.5	70.6	69.8	68.2	67.2	67.1
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90.8	90.5	92.1	92.1	91.9	91.0	91.7	91.4

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1977 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, **National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997**, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.86

Students disapproving of drug use and alcohol use

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1994-97

Question: "Do you disapprove of people who . . .?"

(Percent responding "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade ^b			
	1994 (N=17,429)	1995 (N=17,560)	1996 (N=17,998)	1997 (N=18,765)	1994 (N=15,891)	1995 (N=17,016)	1996 (N=15,686)	1997 (N=15,627)	1994 (N=2,588)	1995 (N=2,603)	1996 (N=2,399)	1997 (N=2,601)
Try marijuana once or twice	72.9%	70.7%	67.5%	67.6%	62.4%	59.8%	55.5%	54.1%	57.6%	56.7%	52.5%	51.0%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	80.9	79.7	76.5	78.1	72.3	70.0	66.9	66.2	68.9	66.7	62.9	63.2
Smoke marijuana regularly	85.3	85.1	82.8	84.6	82.2	81.1	79.7	79.7	82.3	81.9	80.0	78.8
Try inhalants once or twice ^c	81.6	81.8	82.9	84.1	84.9	84.5	86.0	86.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Take inhalants regularly ^c	88.1	88.8	89.3	90.3	91.0	90.9	91.7	91.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try LSD once or twice ^d	75.2	71.6	70.9	72.1	79.3	77.9	76.8	76.6	82.5	81.1	79.6	80.5
Take LSD regularly ^d	78.4	75.8	75.3	76.3	85.6	84.8	84.5	83.4	94.3	92.5	93.2	92.9
Try crack once or twice ^c	86.9	85.9	85.0	85.7	89.9	88.7	88.2	87.4	89.5	91.4	87.4	87.0
Take crack occasionally ^c	89.9	89.8	89.3	90.3	92.5	91.7	91.9	91.0	92.8	94.0	91.2	91.3
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^c	86.1	85.3	83.9	85.1	88.1	86.8	86.1	85.1	87.1	88.3	83.1	83.0
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^c	89.7	89.7	88.7	90.1	92.1	91.4	91.1	90.4	91.0	92.7	89.7	89.3
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^d	NA	85.8	85.0	87.7	NA	89.7	89.5	89.1	NA	92.9	90.8	92.3
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^d	NA	88.5	87.7	90.1	NA	91.6	91.7	91.4	NA	94.7	93.2	94.4
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	47.8	48.0	45.5	45.7	36.5	36.1	34.2	33.7	28.4	27.3	26.5	26.1
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	76.7	75.9	74.1	76.6	75.2	75.4	73.8	75.4	73.1	73.3	70.8	70.0
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	80.7	80.7	79.1	81.3	72.3	72.2	70.7	70.2	65.1	66.7	64.7	65.0
Take steroids ^e	87.9	NA	NA	NA	90.8	NA	NA	NA	91.9	91.0	91.7	91.4

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 through 1993 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available.

^b The twelfth grade questions ask about people who are 18 or older.

^c Data for eighth and tenth grades in 1997 are based on two-thirds of N indicated, due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^d Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form for 1994-96; N is one-half of N indicated. In 1997, N is one-third of N indicated, due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^e Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single form in 1994; N is one-half of N indicated.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.87

High school seniors favoring prohibition of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and place of use, United States, 1985-97

Question: "Do you think that people (who are 18 or older) should be prohibited by law from doing each of the following?"

(Percent responding "yes"^a)

	Class of 1985 (N=3,254)	Class of 1986 (N=3,074)	Class of 1987 (N=3,332)	Class of 1988 (N=3,288)	Class of 1989 (N=2,813)	Class of 1990 (N=2,571)	Class of 1991 (N=2,512)	Class of 1992 (N=2,671)	Class of 1993 (N=2,759)	Class of 1994 (N=2,603)	Class of 1995 (N=2,578)	Class of 1996 (N=2,422)	Class of 1997 (N=2,587)
Smoke marijuana in private	44.7%	43.8%	47.6%	51.8%	51.5%	56.0%	51.6%	52.4%	48.0%	42.9%	44.0%	40.4%	38.8%
Smoke marijuana in public places	78.2	78.9	79.7	81.3	80.0	81.9	79.8	78.3	77.3	72.5	72.9	70.0	69.4
Take LSD in private	70.6	69.0	70.8	71.5	71.6	72.9	68.1	67.2	63.5	63.2	64.3	62.0	61.2
Take LSD in public places	84.8	84.9	85.2	86.0	84.4	84.9	83.9	82.2	82.1	80.5	81.5	79.2	80.3
Take heroin in private	73.3	71.7	75.0	74.2	74.4	76.4	72.8	71.4	70.7	70.1	72.2	70.8	70.6
Take heroin in public places	85.8	85.0	86.2	86.6	85.2	86.7	85.4	83.3	84.5	82.9	84.8	82.3	84.3
Take amphetamines or barbiturates in private	56.3	56.8	59.1	60.2	61.1	64.5	59.7	60.5	57.4	55.7	57.5	54.6	54.6
Take amphetamines or barbiturates in public places	78.3	79.1	79.8	80.2	79.2	81.6	79.7	78.5	78.0	76.4	77.6	74.3	76.5
Get drunk in private	19.8	18.5	18.6	19.2	20.2	23.0	22.0	24.4	22.1	21.0	21.6	21.4	20.5
Get drunk in public places	53.1	52.2	53.2	53.8	52.6	54.6	54.3	54.1	53.6	54.3	54.5	52.8	51.7
Smoke cigarettes in certain specified public places	42.8	45.1	44.4	48.4	44.5	47.3	44.9	47.6	45.9	47.3	45.1	43.4	41.3

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no, (2) not sure, and (3) yes.

Table 2.88

High school seniors' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuana use

United States, 1985-97

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which of the following policies would you favor?"

(Percent favoring policy)

Policy	Class of 1985 (N=3,230)	Class of 1986 (N=3,080)	Class of 1987 (N=3,330)	Class of 1988 (N=3,277)	Class of 1989 (N=2,812)	Class of 1990 (N=2,570)	Class of 1991 (N=2,515)	Class of 1992 (N=2,672)	Class of 1993 (N=2,768)	Class of 1994 (N=2,597)	Class of 1995 (N=2,574)	Class of 1996 (N=2,426)	Class of 1997 (N=2,585)
Using marijuana should be entirely legal	16.6%	14.9%	15.4%	15.1%	16.6%	15.9%	18.0%	18.7%	22.8%	26.8%	30.4%	31.2%	30.8%
It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket but not a crime	25.7	25.9	24.6	21.9	18.9	17.4	19.2	18.0	18.7	19.0	18.0	21.0	20.7
It should be a crime	40.8	42.5	45.3	49.2	50.0	53.2	48.6	47.6	43.4	39.4	37.3	33.8	34.0
Don't know	16.9	16.7	14.8	13.9	14.6	13.6	14.3	15.7	15.1	14.8	14.4	13.9	14.5

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.89

High school seniors' attitudes toward legalization of the sale of marijuana if the use of marijuana were legal

United States, 1985-97

Question: "If it were legal for people to USE marijuana, should it also be legal to SELL marijuana?"

	Class of 1985 (N=3,230)	Class of 1986 (N=3,080)	Class of 1987 (N=3,330)	Class of 1988 (N=3,277)	Class of 1989 (N=2,812)	Class of 1990 (N=2,570)	Class of 1991 (N=2,515)	Class of 1992 (N=2,672)	Class of 1993 (N=2,768)	Class of 1994 (N=2,597)	Class of 1995 (N=2,574)	Class of 1996 (N=2,426)	Class of 1997 (N=2,585)
No	32.6%	33.0%	36.0%	36.8%	38.8%	40.1%	36.8%	37.8%	36.7%	33.1%	32.3%	29.4%	29.1%
Yes, but only to adults	43.2	42.2	41.2	39.9	37.9	38.8	41.4	39.5	40.7	41.7	43.4	46.7	44.8
Yes, to anyone	11.2	10.4	9.2	10.5	9.2	9.6	9.4	9.6	10.1	11.6	11.7	11.1	12.5
Don't know	13.1	14.4	13.6	12.8	14.1	11.6	12.5	13.1	12.5	13.7	12.6	12.8	13.7

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1984 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.90

College freshmen reporting that marijuana should be legalized

By sex, United States, 1968-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Marijuana should be legalized		
	Total	Male	Female
1968	19.4%	21.4%	16.9%
1969	25.6	28.1	22.4
1970	38.4	41.0	35.2
1971	38.7	41.7	35.0
1972	46.6	49.6	43.0
1973	48.2	50.9	45.2
1974	46.7	49.7	43.4
1975	47.2	50.7	43.3
1976	48.9	51.6	46.1
1977	52.9	56.6	49.2
1978	49.5	52.1	47.1
1979	46.0	48.6	43.6
1980	39.3	42.1	36.6
1981	34.0	36.3	31.9
1982	29.4	32.5	26.4
1983	25.7	28.4	23.1
1984	22.9	25.8	20.3
1985	21.8	24.8	18.9
1986	21.3	25.0	18.0
1987	19.3	23.1	15.9
1988	19.3	22.8	16.4
1989	16.7	20.1	13.7
1990	18.6	21.7	16.0
1991	20.9	24.2	18.0
1992	23.0	26.6	19.9
1993	28.2	32.1	25.0
1994	32.1	36.4	28.3
1995	33.8	38.3	30.0
1996	33.0	37.2	29.6
1997	35.2	39.0	32.0

Note: These figures are taken from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey, which is conducted annually by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics including demographic and background information, high school activities, college plans, values, attitudes, and beliefs. Each fall, the HERI surveys approximately 300,000 full-time students entering the freshman classes from a nationally representative sample of 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. From 1966 to 1970, approximately 15% of the Nation's institutions of higher education were selected by sampling procedures to participate in the program. Beginning in 1971, a stratified sample was selected from all institutions that have entering freshman classes and that respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education General Information Survey. An institution is considered eligible if it was operating at the time of the survey and if it had a freshman class of at least 25 students. The data presented above are weighted estimates of all first-time, full-time students entering higher education institutions in the fall of each year. Published reports on trends over 30 years or reports on individual annual survey results can be obtained by writing to the Higher Education Research Institute, 3005 Moore Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521. Response categories were "agree strongly," "agree somewhat," "disagree somewhat," and "disagree strongly." The text or format of the questions or responses may differ slightly in different years.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.91

College freshmen reporting that abortion should be legal

By sex, United States, 1977-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Abortion should be legal		
	Total	Male	Female
1977	55.7%	55.8%	55.6%
1978	56.7	56.5	56.9
1979	53.3	53.0	53.6
1980	53.6	53.3	53.8
1981	53.9	53.0	54.7
1982	54.8	53.7	55.9
1983	54.8	54.7	54.8
1984	53.8	53.3	54.2
1985	54.9	54.5	55.3
1986	58.6	58.3	59.0
1987	58.7	58.7	58.7
1988	57.0	56.8	57.2
1989	64.7	63.6	65.5
1990	64.9	65.0	64.8
1991	63.0	63.0	63.0
1992	64.1	63.9	64.2
1993	62.4	61.8	62.8
1994	59.7	59.0	60.3
1995	58.4	57.8	58.9
1996	56.3	55.7	56.7
1997	53.5	53.7	53.3

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.92

College freshmen reporting there is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals

By sex, United States, 1969-83 and 1987-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals		
	Total	Male	Female
1969	54.3%	60.0%	46.8%
1970	51.6	57.5	44.5
1971	48.1	53.9	41.1
1972	50.3	56.4	43.0
1973	50.1	55.7	43.7
1974	51.5	56.9	45.6
1975	53.5	59.1	47.1
1976	59.7	64.8	54.3
1977	64.3	69.2	59.2
1978	65.4	70.3	60.6
1979	62.4	68.1	57.0
1980	65.9	70.5	61.6
1981	69.1	74.2	64.2
1982	69.8	74.3	65.5
1983	68.8	72.5	65.2
1987	68.3	71.4	65.5
1988	69.1	72.7	66.0
1989	68.5	71.9	65.5
1990	66.3	69.8	63.2
1991	65.3	67.6	63.4
1992	66.7	68.8	64.8
1993	67.6	70.1	65.5
1994	73.0	75.0	71.3
1995	73.3	74.4	72.5
1996	71.6	73.0	70.4
1997	70.2	70.6	69.9

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.93

College freshmen reporting that capital punishment should be abolished

By sex, United States, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1978-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Capital punishment should be abolished		
	Total	Male	Female
1969	53.9%	50.0%	59.0%
1970	56.3	53.4	59.8
1971	57.6	53.2	62.8
1978	32.6	26.8	38.2
1979	34.5	28.0	40.7
1980	34.5	28.0	40.5
1981	30.1	24.7	35.2
1982	28.4	23.1	33.5
1983	28.9	23.9	33.7
1984	26.0	22.2	29.6
1985	26.6	22.6	30.2
1986	25.4	21.4	29.1
1987	23.8	20.4	27.0
1988	23.0	19.6	26.0
1989	21.3	18.4	23.8
1990	21.5	18.5	24.1
1991	21.2	18.8	23.2
1992	21.0	18.1	23.5
1993	22.1	19.2	24.5
1994	20.1	17.7	22.1
1995	20.9	18.1	23.2
1996	22.2	19.0	24.8
1997	23.7	20.9	26.1

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.94

College freshmen reporting that homosexual relations should be legally prohibited

By sex, United States, 1976-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relations		
	Total	Male	Female
1976	47.0%	55.0%	38.6%
1977	48.6	56.7	40.3
1978	46.3	54.4	38.5
1979	47.3	56.2	39.0
1980	48.9	58.1	40.3
1981	48.6	57.8	39.9
1982	47.2	57.0	37.6
1983	49.0	58.3	39.9
1984	47.8	57.9	38.4
1985	47.9	58.3	38.3
1986	52.2	62.5	42.8
1987	53.1	62.5	44.6
1988	49.0	59.7	39.9
1989	45.4	57.3	35.1
1990	44.4	56.0	34.5
1991	42.2	53.4	32.5
1992	37.6	48.6	28.3
1993	36.2	47.7	26.6
1994	33.9	45.4	24.0
1995	30.6	42.4	20.7
1996	33.5	45.2	24.1
1997	33.9	45.5	24.1

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.95

College freshmen reporting that drug testing by employers should be allowed

By sex, United States, 1988-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Employers should be allowed to require drug testing of employees or job applicants		
	Total	Male	Female
1988	71.0%	69.8%	72.0%
1989	77.8	76.5	78.9
1990	80.4	78.5	82.1
1991	80.8	79.1	82.3
1992	82.4	80.5	83.9
1993	79.6	77.4	81.5
1994	80.6	78.3	82.5
1995	77.3	74.1	80.0
1996	79.2	76.4	81.4
1997	78.4	75.0	81.2

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.96

College freshmen reporting that the Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns

By sex, United States, 1989-97

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	The Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns		
	Total	Male	Female
1989	78.2%	67.2%	87.6%
1990	77.1	65.5	87.0
1991	78.1	66.8	87.8
1992	80.4	69.4	89.6
1993	81.8	71.8	90.2
1994	79.9	69.2	89.2
1995	80.8	70.2	89.7
1996	81.6	71.6	89.5
1997	81.3	70.8	90.1

Note: See Note, table 2.90.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 29, 49, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.97

Attitudes toward laws regulating the distribution of pornography

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1983-96

Question: "Which of these statements comes closest to your feelings about pornography laws:

There should be laws against the distribution of pornography whatever the age;
 there should be laws against the distribution of pornography to persons under 18;
 or there should be no laws forbidding the distribution of pornography?"

	1983			1984			1986			1987			1988		
	Laws forbidding distribution		No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution		No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution		No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution		No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution		No laws forbidding distribution
	What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18	
National	41%	53%	4%	41%	54%	4%	43%	53%	4%	40%	55%	4%	43%	50%	5%
Sex															
Male	31	63	5	30	63	7	30	64	4	26	67	5	33	59	6
Female	49	46	4	48	48	2	52	44	4	50	46	3	51	43	4
Race															
White	42	52	4	41	54	4	43	53	3	41	54	4	45	49	5
Black/other	32	62	5	37	54	5	38	53	6	33	61	3	35	58	6
Age															
18 to 20 years	24	73	2	20	69	9	21	74	5	26	74	0	23	71	6
21 to 29 years	25	71	3	22	73	5	26	71	2	25	70	5	28	67	4
30 to 49 years	35	60	4	34	62	4	35	60	4	32	63	4	38	57	4
50 years and older	38	56	4	36	60	4	40	55	4	36	60	4	32	61	7
Education^a															
College	35	60	5	33	62	5	38	58	4	32	63	4	37	58	4
High school graduate	42	53	4	44	52	3	42	54	4	43	53	3	46	47	5
Less than high school graduate	59	31	5	54	36	5	61	31	2	56	34	7	55	30	6
Income															
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation															
Professional/business	38	55	5	35	60	4	40	55	4	35	59	4	40	54	4
Clerical	46	50	4	43	54	2	50	48	2	51	46	3	53	44	2
Manual	38	56	5	43	51	4	40	55	4	39	55	4	41	51	6
Farmer	38	51	5	55	39	6	60	40	0	38	58	5	56	31	12
Region															
Northeast	59	33	6	62	32	4	60	34	4	57	37	4	58	32	5
Midwest	38	56	4	40	54	4	42	54	3	39	55	5	45	48	3
South	46	48	4	43	51	4	47	48	4	43	52	4	48	45	5
West	40	54	6	42	53	5	38	58	4	39	55	4	44	52	4
Religion															
Protestant	46	48	4	44	50	4	47	49	3	43	53	3	48	46	4
Catholic	36	59	5	40	58	2	40	56	3	40	56	3	40	55	3
Jewish	19	72	7	19	77	4	18	71	10	20	65	15	13	65	17
None	27	65	6	21	70	9	24	66	8	16	71	11	21	64	12
Politics															
Republican	45	49	5	44	52	3	47	49	3	44	51	4	46	48	3
Democrat	41	54	5	44	51	4	44	50	4	41	54	4	44	49	6
Independent	39	55	4	35	58	6	37	59	3	34	61	4	39	54	5

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	Laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution	No laws forbidding distribution
What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18		What-ever the age	To persons under 18	
40%	54%	5%	41%	52%	6%	40%	55%	4%	42%	54%	3%	37%	60%	3%	38%	58%	4%
29	63	7	33	59	6	26	66	6	32	62	5	26	68	5	25	70	4
49	46	3	47	47	5	49	47	3	48	48	2	45	52	2	48	48	4
41	54	4	42	51	5	41	54	4	44	53	3	38	58	3	39	56	4
38	52	7	34	57	7	31	60	6	31	60	6	31	65	3	31	64	3
36	56	8	17	65	13	16	79	0	28	59	10	15	79	3	23	70	6
27	68	3	29	67	3	30	66	3	24	72	3	25	72	2	25	72	2
30	65	4	36	60	4	33	63	4	33	64	3	28	69	3	30	66	3
59	33	6	53	36	8	54	38	5	60	34	3	54	41	4	54	39	5
34	59	5	36	57	7	36	59	4	36	60	3	30	66	3	32	63	4
43	53	4	44	51	5	42	53	4	46	49	3	42	56	2	41	57	2
59	29	7	47	38	5	51	43	4	55	39	4	54	34	9	48	43	6
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	60	5	32	65	2	31	65	3
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	60	2	34	63	3	34	62	3
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	41	53	4	35	60	4	39	56	4
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	47	49	2	41	55	3	39	54	4
37	58	4	38	55	6	35	60	4	38	58	3	32	64	3	34	62	4
48	48	3	47	50	4	45	51	4	48	48	4	43	55	1	41	56	3
39	53	6	40	52	5	41	53	4	42	54	3	35	61	4	38	57	3
44	38	12	35	59	6	25	65	5	42	53	5	38	52	5	45	47	3
36	56	5	32	62	5	34	61	3	38	56	5	32	63	4	34	60	5
39	56	4	38	54	7	41	54	5	40	56	3	34	63	2	40	56	3
44	49	6	49	44	5	39	54	5	47	49	2	43	53	3	42	53	3
40	56	4	38	55	6	44	53	3	38	57	4	32	64	3	30	65	4
46	50	4	46	48	5	43	52	3	49	47	2	43	54	2	45	51	3
34	61	2	39	56	4	38	58	4	35	62	3	32	66	2	30	65	4
24	71	6	20	53	20	4	82	9	20	80	0	20	76	5	24	63	11
22	59	16	22	66	9	18	66	11	15	75	9	17	75	7	18	73	6
42	53	4	43	50	5	43	54	2	52	45	3	43	55	2	43	53	4
44	51	5	44	47	7	38	55	4	41	55	3	36	61	2	36	59	4
34	58	5	34	60	5	38	56	5	35	60	4	33	63	4	35	61	3

Table 2.98

Attitudes toward pornographic material leading to rape

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-94

Question: "The next questions are about pornography--books, movies, magazines, and photographs that show or describe sex activities. I'm going to read some opinions about the effects of looking at or reading such sexual materials. As I read each one, please tell me if you think sexual materials do or do not have that effect: Sexual materials lead people to commit rape."

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	50%	43%	52%	38%	53%	38%	57%	36%	54%	37%	55%	38%	55%	37%	57%	36%	54%	37%
<u>Sex</u>																		
Male	43	51	46	46	46	46	50	45	47	45	48	46	46	48	50	43	45	45
Female	56	36	57	31	58	32	61	30	59	30	61	31	61	30	62	31	61	30
<u>Race</u>																		
White	50	43	53	38	54	38	57	36	54	38	56	38	55	38	57	37	55	37
Black/other	52	43	47	41	44	44	55	38	59	31	53	35	56	34	56	33	49	37
<u>Age</u>																		
18 to 20 years	41	56	44	51	39	54	53	45	50	43	46	50	40	49	53	42	43	38
21 to 29 years	36	60	37	55	38	54	47	46	45	50	51	42	46	47	44	50	50	45
30 to 49 years	47	47	47	42	49	44	50	42	48	44	49	45	50	43	50	45	45	46
50 years and older	62	28	66	23	65	23	69	23	65	22	65	26	69	23	71	19	68	22
<u>Education</u>																		
College	34	60	37	54	40	53	40	51	35	56	45	49	44	47	48	45	41	50
High school	53	40	55	35	56	36	61	33	62	30	61	33	59	34	58	35	61	30
Grade school	69	23	70	18	67	19	76	15	68	17	65	21	74	16	80	12	73	14
<u>Income</u>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																		
Professional/business	41	50	46	45	43	51	46	46	43	48	48	44	48	44	49	43	43	48
Clerical	47	44	50	37	55	35	62	30	62	30	60	33	54	37	58	36	65	29
Manual	56	38	56	36	58	34	58	35	58	33	58	36	60	34	61	33	58	32
Farmer	64	31	60	23	46	26	64	28	50	32	60	26	64	29	74	17	75	18
<u>Region</u>																		
Northeast	42	49	54	38	49	47	48	42	51	38	55	37	48	43	54	39	50	41
Midwest	53	39	51	41	56	34	57	35	53	38	53	40	53	38	58	37	57	36
South	53	41	57	30	53	34	65	29	61	32	60	33	63	30	59	32	58	32
West	50	45	40	50	51	41	52	43	46	42	52	41	52	42	54	40	48	41
<u>Religion</u>																		
Protestant	54	39	56	33	56	34	62	32	59	33	59	34	61	33	61	31	58	34
Catholic	50	41	54	38	54	39	56	35	48	42	55	37	50	40	54	41	54	37
Jewish	24	67	26	56	38	58	41	48	39	45	23	74	27	50	30	62	40	40
None	21	75	20	73	26	65	26	66	36	55	38	53	37	52	33	60	29	62
<u>Politics</u>																		
Republican	54	39	58	30	56	31	63	29	57	34	59	36	61	31	60	34	59	34
Democrat	52	40	54	36	56	35	57	38	57	34	56	37	56	37	59	34	54	37
Independent	44	50	46	44	47	45	53	39	50	40	52	39	50	41	51	41	50	39

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
56%	36%	60%	33%	56%	33%	52%	37%	57%	34%	48%	42%
47	45	49	45	48	42	40	50	50	43	40	51
64	28	68	24	64	26	61	27	62	27	55	34
57	35	59	34	56	33	53	36	57	33	48	42
52	38	66	24	56	34	49	40	56	35	49	38
36	58	64	33	61	26	26	68	52	38	41	47
49	44	50	42	49	44	46	44	55	39	40	52
52	42	53	40	52	38	48	43	45	44	42	49
67	23	72	21	65	22	63	24	74	18	61	27
44	46	48	45	47	42	45	43	49	40	39	49
66	29	68	25	64	27	58	33	64	27	55	37
65	23	76	16	64	19	71	20	71	23	67	15
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	48	41	38	54
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	41	47	42
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	61	33	45	44
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	26	58	34
50	41	51	41	50	40	45	44	48	40	37	51
63	29	70	25	65	29	55	35	62	31	60	33
57	35	64	29	60	29	58	32	60	31	50	40
62	38	56	25	53	29	40	20	90	10	50	38
50	42	55	35	50	46	45	42	55	36	44	47
56	36	59	36	57	31	53	38	54	35	48	40
65	27	66	27	60	29	56	34	61	29	53	39
50	42	55	37	57	30	53	34	55	37	44	44
60	32	65	28	62	27	55	33	62	30	53	38
57	36	56	36	53	37	56	36	56	35	45	45
48	44	65	35	20	73	18	59	40	40	28	61
33	52	38	59	37	56	31	65	36	51	30	53
56	35	59	35	56	31	52	36	64	29	56	36
58	34	66	27	59	30	54	35	56	36	48	40
54	38	54	38	55	38	51	39	54	35	41	49

Table 2.99

Attitudes toward the legalization of prostitution

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "In your opinion, should prostitution involving adults aged 18 years of age and older be legal or illegal in your state?"

	Legal	Illegal	Don't know/ refused
National	26%	70%	4%
Sex			
Male	32	63	5
Female	21	77	2
Race			
White	27	70	3
Black	20	79	1
Nonwhite ^a	22	75	3
Age			
18 to 29 years	25	74	1
30 to 49 years	28	68	4
50 to 64 years	32	65	3
65 years and older	18	77	5
Education			
College post graduate	41	57	2
College graduate	28	69	3
Some college	28	68	4
No college	21	76	3
Income			
\$75,000 and over	34	61	5
\$50,000 and over ^b	33	64	3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	26	70	4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	27	71	2
Under \$20,000	18	80	2
Community			
Urban area	30	68	2
Suburban area	26	69	5
Rural area	22	77	1
Region			
East	28	68	4
Midwest	20	78	2
South	24	75	1
West	34	58	8
Politics			
Republican	23	74	3
Democrat	25	71	4
Independent	31	66	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.100

Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations

United States, selected years 1977-96

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

	Legal	Not legal	No opinion
1977	43%	43%	14%
1982	45	39	16
1985	44	47	9
1986	33	54	13
1987	33	55	12
1989	47	36	17
1992	48	44	8
1996	44	47	9

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 375 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1996), p. 13. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.101

Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

	Legal	Not legal	Don't know/ refused
National	44%	47%	9%
Sex			
Male	48	45	7
Female	41	49	10
Race			
White	45	47	8
Black	43	48	9
Nonwhite ^a	42	49	9
Age			
18 to 29 years	55	38	7
30 to 49 years	49	43	8
50 to 64 years	41	49	10
65 years and older	24	65	11
Education			
College post graduate	64	26	10
College graduate	67	26	7
Some college	46	45	9
No college	32	60	8
Income			
\$75,000 and over	49	40	11
\$50,000 and over ^b	51	40	9
\$30,000 to \$49,999	47	45	8
\$20,000 to \$29,999	47	47	6
Under \$20,000	38	55	7
Community			
Urban area	45	47	8
Suburban area	46	44	10
Rural area	39	53	8
Region			
East	47	45	8
Midwest	41	46	13
South	39	52	9
West	52	43	5
Politics			
Republican	33	62	5
Democrat	52	40	8
Independent	45	43	12

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.102

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

United States, selected years 1975-97

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal	No opinion
1975	21%	54%	22%	3%
1977	22	55	19	4
1979	22	54	19	5
1980	25	53	18	4
1981	23	52	21	4
1983	23	58	16	3
1988	24	57	17	2
April 1989	27	50	18	5
July 1989	29	51	17	3
1990	31	53	12	4
May 1991	32	50	17	1
September 1991	33	49	14	4
January 1992	31	53	14	2
June 1992	34	48	13	5
1993	32	51	13	4
March 1994	31	51	15	3
September 1994	33	52	13	2
1995	33	50	15	2
1996	25	58	15	2
1997	22	61	15	2

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 6](#).Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 383 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1997), p. 36. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.103

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal
National	22%	61%	15%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	23	59	15
Female	22	63	14
<u>Race</u>			
White	21	64	14
Black	25	44	27
Nonwhite ^a	29	45	23
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 29 years	29	59	12
30 to 49 years	24	61	13
50 to 64 years	22	57	17
65 years and older	11	67	21
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	34	55	10
College graduate	31	55	12
Some college	26	65	9
No college	15	62	21
<u>Income</u>			
\$75,000 and over	29	61	9
\$50,000 and over ^b	28	59	11
\$30,000 to \$49,999	27	60	12
\$20,000 to \$29,999	16	67	16
Under \$20,000	15	61	22
<u>Community</u>			
Urban area	24	58	16
Suburban area	25	61	12
Rural area	13	65	22
<u>Region</u>			
East	23	61	15
Midwest	16	61	20
South	21	63	14
West	31	57	11
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	18	63	19
Democrat	26	59	12
Independent	22	61	15

Note: The "don't know, refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.104

Attitudes toward legalization of doctor-assisted suicide

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to assist the patient to commit suicide if the patient requests it, or not?"

	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	Don't know/refused
National	53%	39%	8%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	60	34	6
Female	47	43	10
<u>Race</u>			
White	57	35	8
Black	22	73	5
Nonwhite ^a	30	64	6
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 29 years	56	40	4
30 to 49 years	62	30	8
50 to 64 years	43	47	10
50 years and older	42	48	10
65 years and older	40	50	10
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	68	25	7
College graduate	58	38	4
Some college	57	35	8
No college	47	45	8
<u>Income</u>			
\$50,000 and over	66	29	5
\$30,000 to \$49,999	52	39	9
\$20,000 to \$29,999	48	44	8
Under \$20,000	38	55	7
<u>Community</u>			
Urban area	52	37	11
Suburban area	58	35	7
Rural area	47	47	6
<u>Region</u>			
East	64	27	9
Midwest	54	37	9
South	39	55	6
West	61	32	7
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	46	46	8
Democrat	55	39	6
Independent	58	32	10

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Appendix 6

Public opinion survey sampling procedures

Note: Information on Gallup survey sampling procedures was excerpted from George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion 1934-1971, Vol. 1, 1935-1948* (New York: Random House, 1972), pp. vi-viii; George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Opinion Index*, Report No. 162 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1979), pp. 29, 30; George Gallup, *The Sophisticated Poll Watcher's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Opinion Press, 1976), p. 102; and from information provided to SOURCEBOOK staff from The Gallup Organization, Inc. Information on the Harris Poll survey sampling procedures was provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.; similar procedures used in earlier surveys are described in Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Yearbook of Public Opinion 1970: A Compendium of Current American Attitudes* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1971), pp. 511-514. Information on the survey procedures employed by the National Opinion Research Center was excerpted from the National Opinion Research Center, *General Social Surveys, 1972-1996: Cumulative Codebook* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1996), pp. v-vii, 54, 965, 966, 1184-1186. Information on the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll was excerpted from Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1994), p. 56; Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), p. 56; Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 58; and Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97.htm> [Dec.31, 1997]. Information also was excerpted from material provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Information on the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was excerpted from Laura Kann et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 1995," CDC

Surveillance Summaries, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 SS-4 (Washington, DC: USGPO, Sept. 27, 1996).

The sampling procedures of six public opinion surveys or survey organizations are presented in this appendix: The Gallup Poll, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Education Poll, the Harris Survey, the National Opinion Research Center, The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

GALLUP POLLS

All Gallup polls since 1950, excluding certain special surveys, have been based on a national probability sample of interviewing areas. Refinements in the sample design have been introduced at various points in time since then. However, over this period the design essentially has conformed to the current procedure, as described in the following paragraphs.

The United States is divided into seven size-of-community strata: cities of population 1,000,000 and over, 250,000 to 999,999, and 50,000 to 249,000, with the urbanized areas of all these cities forming a single stratum; cities of 2,500 to 49,999; rural villages; and farm or open country rural areas. Within each of these strata, the population is further divided into seven regions: New England, Middle Atlantic, East Central, West Central, South, Mountain, and Pacific Coast. Within each size-of-community and regional stratum the population is arrayed in geographic order and zoned into equal sized groups of sampling units. Pairs of localities in each zone are selected with probability of selection proportional to the size of each locality's population--producing two replicated samples of localities.

Within selected cities for which population data are reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, these sample subdivisions are drawn with probability of selection proportional to the size of the population. For other cities, minor civil divisions, and rural areas in the sample for which population data are not reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, small, definable geographic areas are drawn, with the probability of selection proportional to size where available data permit; otherwise with equal probability.

A block or block cluster is drawn with probability of selection proportional to the number of dwelling units from within each subdivision selected for which block statistics are available. In cities and towns for which block statistics are not available, blocks are drawn at random, that is, with equal probability. In subdivisions that are

rural or open country in character, segments approximately equal in size of population are delineated and drawn with equal probability.

In each cluster of blocks and each segment so selected, a randomly selected starting point is designated on the interviewer's map of the area. Starting at this point, interviewers are required to follow a given direction in the selection of households, taking households in sequence, until their assigned number of interviews has been completed. Within each occupied dwelling unit or household reached, the interviewer asks to speak to the youngest man 18 or older at home, or if no man is at home, the oldest woman 18 or older. This method of selection within the household has been developed empirically to produce an age distribution by men and women separately which compares closely with the age distribution of the population. It increases the probability of selecting younger men, who are at home relatively infrequently, and the probability of reaching older women in the household who tend to be under-represented unless given a disproportionate chance of being drawn from among those at home. The method of selection among those at home within the household is not strictly random, but it is systematic and objective, and eliminates interviewer judgment in the selection process. Interviewing is conducted at times when adults are most likely to be at home, which means on weekends or if on weekdays, after 4 p.m. for women and after 6 p.m. for men. Allowance for persons not at home is made by a "times-at-home" weighting procedure rather than by "call-backs." This procedure is a standard method for reducing the sample bias that would otherwise result from under-representation of persons who are difficult to find at home.

The pre-stratification by regions is routinely supplemented by fitting each obtained sample to the latest available U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the regional distribution of the population. Also minor adjustments of the sample are made by educational attainment (for men and women separately), based on the annual estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census derived from their Current Population Survey. The sample procedure described is designed to produce an approximation of the adult civilian population living in the United States, except for those persons in institutions such as prisons or hospitals. The four regions of the country, as reported in Gallup public opinion surveys, have been defined in the following manner:

East--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, District of Columbia;

Midwest--Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas;

South--Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas; and

West--Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska.

Urbanization--Central cities have populations of 50,000 and above. Suburbs constitute the fringe and include populations of 2,500 to 49,999. Rural areas are those that have populations of under 2,500.

Race/ethnicity--Nonwhite is comprised of individuals who report themselves as any combination of the following classifications: Hispanic, American Indian, Other Indian, Oriental, and Black. Black and Hispanic are subcategories of Nonwhite. However, due to variation in respondent reporting the category White may also include some Hispanics.

According to Gallup policy, if the interviewee does not hear or does not understand a question, the interviewer repeats the question and if on the second reading the person does not understand or does not get the point of the question, the interviewer checks the "no opinion" box. It should also be noted that seldom more than 10% of all those contacted refuse to be interviewed. Gallup Poll Surveys of a nationwide sample usually include approximately 1,000 respondents.

Sampling error

All sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population surveyed had been interviewed. The size of sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews. The following table may be used in estimating sampling error. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95% of the time, assuming the same sampling procedure, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

(Percent)

Percent- ages near	Sample size					
	1,000	750	600	400	200	100
10	2	3	3	4	5	7
20	3	4	4	5	7	9
30	4	4	4	6	8	10
40	4	4	5	6	8	11
50	4	4	5	6	8	11
60	4	4	5	6	8	11
70	4	4	4	6	8	10
80	3	4	4	5	7	9
90	2	3	3	4	5	7

The table would be used in the following manner: Assume a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 1,000 respondents. Proceed to row "Percentages near 30" in the table and then to the column headed, "1,000." The figure in this cell is four, which means that at the 95% confidence level, the 33% obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus four points.

PHI DELTA KAPPA/GALLUP POLL

The Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup polls are modified probability samples of adults 18 years of age and older living in the United States. The 1994 sample was comprised of 1,326 adults; interviewing took place May 10-June 8, 1994. The 1995 sample was comprised of 1,311 adults; interviewing took place May 25-June 15, 1995. The 1996 sample was comprised of 1,329 adults; interviewing took place May 2-22, 1996. The 1997 sample was comprised of 1,517 adults, including 1,017 parents of public school children; interviewing took place June 3-22, 1997. The data collection design employed the Gallup Organization's standard national telephone sample, i.e., an unclustered, directory-assisted, random-digit telephone sample, based on a proportionate stratified sampling design. "Nonpublic school parents" includes parents of students who attend parochial schools, private schools, or independent schools. For further information on the survey sampling procedures see Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997].

HARRIS SURVEYS

Harris surveys are based on a national sample of the civilian population of the continental United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not represented in the sample, nor are those in prisons, hospitals, or religious and

educational institutions. The sample is based on census information on the population of each State in the country, and on the population living in standard metropolitan areas and in the rest of the country. These population figures are updated by intercensal estimates produced annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and sample locations are selected biennially to reflect changes in the country's demographic profile.

National samples are stratified in two dimensions--geographic region and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) residence. Stratification insures that the samples will reflect, within 1%, the actual proportions of those living in the country in different regions and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) areas. Within each stratum the selection of the ultimate sampling unit is achieved through a series of steps, a process which is technically called multi-stage unclustered sampling. Each sampling unit yields one interview. First States, then counties, and then minor civil divisions (cities, towns, townships) are selected with probability proportional to census estimates of their respective household populations.

The Harris Survey has four of these national samples, and they are used in rotation from study to study. The specific sample locations in one study generally are adjacent to those used in the next study. For most surveys covering the entire country, more than one national sample may be employed. Harris Surveys of a nationwide sample usually include approximately 1,250 respondents. All interviews prior to 1978 were conducted in person, in the homes of respondents. At each household the respondent was chosen by means of a random selection pattern, geared to the number of adults of each sex who live in the household. Interviews lasted approximately 1 hour. Almost all interviews conducted as of 1978 have been telephone interviews. Respondents are selected on the basis of random digit dialing. When the completed interviews are received in New York, a subsample of the respondents are re-contacted to verify that the data have been accurately recorded. Questionnaires are edited and coded in the New York office. The Harris sampling procedure is designed to produce a national cross-section that accurately reflects the actual population of the country 18 years of age and older living in private households. This means that the results of a survey among a national sample can be projected as representative of the country's civilian population 18 years of age and older.

Harris Survey national results are reported for the East, Midwest, South, and West regions of the country, defined as follows:

East--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode

Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia;

Midwest--North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio;

South--Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas; and

West--Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico.

Sampling error

The results of the surveys are subject to sampling error, i.e., the difference between the results obtained from the sample and those that would be obtained by surveying the entire population. The size of a possible sampling error varies to some extent with the size of the sample and with the percentage giving a particular answer. The following table sets forth the range of error in samples of different sizes and at different percentages of response.

For example, if the response for a sample size of 1,200 is 30%, in 95 cases out of 100 the response in the population will be between 27% and 33%. This error accounts only for sampling error. Survey research also is susceptible to other errors, such as data handling and interview recording.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

Re- sponse percent	Sample size					
	1,600	1,200	900	500	250	100
10(90)	2	2	2	3	5	7
20(80)	2	3	3	4	6	10
30(70)	3	3	4	5	7	11
40(60)	3	3	4	5	7	12
50	3	3	4	5	8	12

NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) maintains a national probability sample. The General Social Surveys (GSS) are interviews administered to the NORC national samples using a standard questionnaire. They have been conducted during February, March, and April from 1972 to 1978, 1980, 1982 to 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1996. There are a total of 35,284 completed interviews (1,613 in 1972; 1,504 in 1973; 1,484 in 1974; 1,490 in 1975; 1,499 in 1976; 1,530 in 1977; 1,532 in 1978; 1,468 in 1980; 1,506 and an oversample of 354 blacks in 1982; 1,599 in 1983; 1,473 in 1984; 1,534 in 1985; 1,470 in 1986; 1,466 and an oversample of 353 blacks in 1987; 1,481 in 1988;

1,537 in 1989; 1,372 in 1990; 1,517 in 1991; 1,606 in 1993; 2,992 in 1994; and 2,904 in 1996). Sampling frames are based on 1970 census information for surveys conducted in 1972-78, 1980, and 1982. For all interviews conducted from 1984-91, the national sampling frame was based on 1980 census information. A split sample transition design was used in the 1983 survey. One-half of the sample was drawn from the 1970 frame and one-half from the 1980 frame. Again in 1993, a split sample transaction design was employed on the 1993 survey to measure the effect of switching from the 1980 sample frame to the 1990 sample frame. Half the sample was drawn from each frame. Since 1973, the median length of the interview has been about one and a half hours. This study employed standard field procedures for national surveys, including interviewer hiring and training by area supervisors in interviewing locations when necessary.

Each survey is an independently drawn sample of English-speaking persons 18 years of age and older, living in non-institutional arrangements within the United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not included in samples drawn from the 1970 sampling frame, but are represented in one-half of the 1983 surveys and all those conducted from 1984-96. Block quota sampling was used in the 1972, 1973, and 1974 surveys and for half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys. Full probability sampling was employed in half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys and in all of the surveys conducted subsequent to 1976.

The sample is a multi-stage area probability sample to the block or segment level. At the block level, quota sampling is used with quotas based on sex, age, and employment status. The cost of the quota samples is substantially less than the cost of a full probability sample of the same size, but there is, of course, the chance of sample biases mainly due to not-at-homes which are not controlled by the quotas. However, in order to reduce this bias, the interviewers are given instructions to canvass and interview only after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays or during the weekend or holidays. The first stage of sample selection includes selection of the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The PSUs employed are Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) or nonmetropolitan counties selected in NORC's Master Sample. These SMSAs and counties were stratified by region, age, and race before selection. The units of selection of the second stage were block groups (BGs) and enumeration districts (EDs). These EDs and BGs were stratified according to race and income. The third stage of selection was that of blocks, which were selected with probabilities proportional to size. In places without block statistics, measures of size for

the blocks were obtained by field counting. The average cluster size is five respondents per cluster.

The quotas call for approximately equal numbers of men and women with the exact proportion in each segment determined by the 1970 census tract data. For women, the additional requirement is imposed that there be the proper proportion of employed and unemployed women in the location. Again, these quotas are based on the 1970 census tract data. For men, the added requirement is that there be the proper proportion of men over and under age 35 in the location. Past experience suggests that, for most purposes, this quota sample of 1,500 could be considered as having about the same efficiency as a simple random sample of 1,000 cases.

The 1975 and 1976 studies were conducted with a traditional sample design, one-half full probability and one-half block quota. The sample was divided into two parts for several reasons: (1) to provide data for possibly interesting methodological comparisons; and (2) on the chance that there are some differences over time, that it would be possible to assign these differences to either shifts in sample designs, or changes in response patterns. Having allowed for the appearance of all items in the transitional sample design, the GSS then switched to a full probability sample beginning with the 1977 survey.

Rotation

Since its inception the GSS employed a *rotation design* under which most of its items appeared on two out of every three surveys. While this design proved to be useful for both monitoring change and augmenting the content of the GSS, it had the disadvantage of irregularly spacing the data and allowing gaps in the time series. This situation was particularly acute during 1978-82 because of the lack of funding for surveys in 1979 and 1981. At that juncture 4-year gaps regularly appeared in the data and 6-year lapses existed for bivariate correlations between items from different rotations. Even with annual surveys 2-year gaps and 3-year intervals for bivariate correlations occur. To reduce this imbalance in the time series and reduce the length of intervals, in 1988 the rotation, across-time design previously used was changed to a *split-ballot design*. Under this design rotations 1, 2, and 3 occur across random sub-samples within each survey rather than across surveys (and years). Each sub-sample (known as ballots) consists of 1/3 of the sample. Permanent items are not affected by this switch. They continue to appear on all cases for all surveys. Rotating items now appear on all surveys and are asked of two-thirds of

respondents on each survey. Over a 3-year cycle the same number of respondents are asked the "rotating" items as before (3,000), but instead of coming in two segments of 1,500 each from two surveys, they appear in three segments of 1,000 each from three surveys.

The 1993 GSS was the last survey conducted under this design. In 1994 two major innovations were introduced to the GSS.

First, the traditional core was substantially reduced to allow for the creation of mini-modules (i.e. blocks of about 15 minutes devoted to some combination of small- to medium-sized supplements). The mini-modules space provides greater flexibility to incorporate innovations and to include important items proposed by the social science community.

Second, a new biennial, split-sample design was used. The sample consists of two parallel sub-samples of approximately 1,500 cases each. The two sub-samples both contain the identical core. The A sample also contains a standard, topical module, the mini-modules, and an International Social Survey Program (ISSP) module (on women, work, and the family). The B sample has a second topical module, mini-modules, and an ISSP module (on the environment). In effect, one can think of the A sample as representing a traditional GSS for 1994 and the B sample representing a traditional GSS for 1995. Rather than being fielded separately in two different years they are fielded together.

In 1996 (and in subsequent even-numbered years), the same design described for 1994 was repeated. In addition, in 1994 only, a transitional design was utilized to calibrate any impact of deletions from the core.

Survey results are reported for four regional categories, with the States classified in the following way:

Northeast--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont;

North Central--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin;

South--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia;

West--Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS

Both the May/June and November/December 1996 surveys were conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. The survey results are based on telephone interviews among nationwide samples of adults 18 years of age and older. The samples are random digit dialing samples of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. Both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed numbers) are represented. The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the United States. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with State-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households.

At least four attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of the day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were recontacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there was no eligible male at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender. To compensate for potential biases in survey-derived estimates the sample data have been weighted in the analysis. The demographic weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the most recently available U.S. Bureau of the Census' Current Population Survey (March 1994). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 years of age and older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis included only households in the United States that contained a telephone.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and monitors priority health risk behaviors among youth and adults. The 1995 national school-based survey, a component of the YRBSS, employed a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9 through 12. The first-stage sampling frame contained 1,955 primary sampling units (PSUs), consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. From the 1,955 PSUs, 52 were selected from 16 strata formed on the basis of the degree of urbanization and the relative percentage of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students in the PSU. The PSUs were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. At the second sampling stage, 157 schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. To enable separate analysis of black and Hispanic students, schools with substantial numbers of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students were sampled at relatively higher rates than were all other schools. The third stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting one or two intact classes of a required subject (e.g., English or social studies) from grades 9 through 12 at each chosen school. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the study. The school response rate was 70% and the student response rate was 86%, for an overall response rate of 60%. A total of 10,904 questionnaires were completed in 110 schools.

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for nonresponse and for the varying probabilities of selection, including those resulting from the oversampling of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students. Numbers of students in racial/ethnic groups other than white (non-Hispanic), black (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic were too small for meaningful analysis. The weights were scaled so that the weighted count of students was equal to the total sample size and so that the weighted proportions of students in each grade matched national population proportions.

The data are representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private schools in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Appendix 7

Monitoring the Future Survey methodology and definitions of terms

Note: The following information was excerpted from Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1995* (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 1997), pp. 2-11, 13, 14; Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use From the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997*, Volumes I and II (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming); and information provided by the Monitoring the Future Project. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

Survey methodology

The basic research design involves annual data collections from high school seniors during the spring of each year, beginning with the class of 1975. Each data collection takes place in approximately 130 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate cross-section of high school seniors throughout the coterminous United States.

Since 1986, the results of a followup survey of those young adults 1 to 10 years beyond high school have been presented. These results should accurately characterize 85% of the young adults in the class cohorts 1 to 10 years beyond high school who are high school graduates. The high school dropout segment, missing from the senior year surveys, also is missing from the followup segments.

Also since 1980, the results of followup surveys of those high school students who have continued on to college have been presented. The college sample is limited to the most typical one for college attendance: 1 to 4 years past high school, which corresponds to the modal ages of 19 to 22 years old. This age category should encompass about 75% of all students enrolled in college full-time.

Sampling procedures

The procedure for securing a nationwide sample of high school seniors is a multistage one. Stage 1 is the selection of particular geographic areas, Stage 2 is the selection of one or more high schools in each area, and Stage 3 is the selection of seniors within each high school.

Stage 1: Geographic areas. The geographic areas used in this study are the primary sampling units (PSUs) developed by the Sampling Section of the Survey Research Center (SRC) for use in the Center's nationwide interview studies. These consist of 74 primary areas throughout the coterminous United States—including the 12 largest metropolitan areas, which contain about 30% of the Nation's population. Of the 62 other primary areas, 10 are in the Northeast, 18 in the North Central area, 24 in the South, and 10 in the West. Because these same PSUs are used for personal interview studies by the SRC, local field representatives can be assigned to administer the data collections in practically all schools.

Stage 2: Schools. In the major metropolitan areas more than one high school is often included in the sampling design; in most other sampling areas a single high school is sampled. In all cases, the selections of high schools are made such that the probability of drawing a school is proportionate to the size of its senior class. The larger the senior class (according to recent records), the higher the selection probability assigned to the high school. When a sampled school is unwilling to participate, a replacement school as similar to it as possible is selected from the same geographic area.

Stage 3: Students. Within each selected school, up to about 400 seniors may be included in the data collection. In schools with fewer than 400 seniors, the usual procedure is to include all of them in the data collection. In larger schools, a subset of seniors is selected either by randomly sampling classrooms or by some other random method that is convenient for the school and judged to be unbiased. Sample weights are assigned to each respondent so as to take account of variations in the sizes of samples from one school to another, as well as the (smaller) variations in selection probabilities occurring at the earlier stages of sampling.

The three-stage sampling procedure described above yielded the number of participating schools and students indicated in Table 1.

One limitation in the design is that it does not include in the target population those young men and women who drop out of high school before graduation (or before the last few months of the senior year, to be more precise). This excludes a relatively small proportion of each age cohort—between 15 and 20%. This is not an unimportant segment, since certain behaviors such as illicit drug use and delinquency tend to be higher than average in this group. However, the addition of a representative sample of dropouts would increase the cost of the present research enormously, because of their dispersion and generally higher level of resistance to being located and interviewed.

For the purposes of estimating characteristics of the entire age group, the omission of high school dropouts does introduce certain biases; however, their small proportion sets outer limits on the bias. For the purposes of estimating changes from one cohort of high school seniors to another, the omission of dropouts represents a problem only if different cohorts have considerably different proportions who drop out. The Source has no reason to expect dramatic changes in those rates for the foreseeable future, and recently published government statistics indicate a great deal of stability in dropout rates since 1970.

Some may use the high school data to draw conclusions about changes for the entire age group. While the Source does not encourage such extrapolation, the Source suspects that the conclusions reached often would be valid, since over 80% of the age group is in the surveyed segment of the population and the Source expects that changes among those not in school are very likely to parallel the changes among those who are. Nevertheless, for purposes of characterizing the entire age group the Source would urge the user to check the results emanating from the present monitoring system against those emerging from other data collection systems using different methods, such as household interviews.

One other important feature of the base-year sampling procedures should be noted. All schools (except for half of the initial 1975 sample) are asked to participate in two data collections, thereby permitting replacement of half of the total sample of schools each year. One motivation for requesting that schools participate for 2 years is administrative efficiency; it is a costly and time-consuming procedure to secure the cooperation of schools, and a 2-year period of participation cuts down that effort substantially. Another important advantage is that whenever an appreciable shift in scores from one graduating class to the next is observed, it is possible to check whether the shift might be attributable to some differences in the newly sampled schools. This is done simply by repeating the analysis using only the 60 or so schools that participated both years. Thus far, the half-sample approach has worked quite well; and examination of drug prevalence data from the "matched half-samples" shows that the half samples of repeat schools yielded drug prevalence trends that were virtually identical to trends based on all schools.

Questionnaire administration

The questionnaire administration in each school is carried out by the local SRC representatives and their assistants, following standardized procedures detailed in a

project instruction manual. The questionnaires are administered in classrooms during normal class periods whenever possible, although circumstances in some schools require the use of larger group administrations. Teachers are not asked to do anything more than introduce the SRC staff members and (in most cases) remain in the classroom to help guarantee an orderly atmosphere for the survey. Teachers are urged to avoid walking around the room, so that students may feel free to write their answers without fear of being observed.

The actual process of completing the questionnaires is quite straightforward. Respondents are given sharpened pencils and asked to use them because the questionnaires are designed for automatic scanning. Most respondents can finish within a 45-minute class period; for those who cannot, an effort is made to provide a few minutes of additional time.

Content areas and questionnaire design

Drug use and related attitudes are the topics that receive the most extensive coverage in the Monitoring the Future Project; but the questionnaires also deal with a wide range of other subject areas, including attitudes about government, social institutions, race relations, changing roles for women, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital and family plans, as well as a variety of background and demographic factors. The list below provides an outline of the 20 general subject areas into which all items are categorized. Given this breadth of content, the study is not presented to respondents as a "drug use study," nor do they tend to view it as such.

Measurement content areas

A. Drugs. Drug use and related attitudes and beliefs, drug availability and exposure, surrounding conditions and social meanings of drug use. Views of significant others regarding drugs.

B. Education. Educational lifestyle, values, experiences, and environments.

C. Work and leisure. Vocational values, meaning of work and leisure, work and leisure activities, preferences regarding occupational characteristics and type of work setting.

D. Sex roles and family. Values, attitudes, and expectations about marriage, family structure, sex roles, and sex discrimination.

E. Population concerns. Values and attitudes about overpopulation and birth control.

F. Conservation, materialism, equity, etc. Values, attitudes, and expectations related to conservation, pollution, materialism, equity, and the sharing of resources. Preferences regarding type of dwelling and urbanicity.

G. Religion. Religious affiliation, practices, and views.

H. Politics. Political affiliation, activities, and views.

I. Social change. Values, attitudes, and expectations about social change.

J. Social problems. Concern with various social problems facing the Nation and the world.

K. Major social institutions. Confidence in and commitment to various major social institutions (business, unions, branches of government, press, organized religion, military, etc.).

L. Military. Views about the armed services and the use of military force. Personal plans for military service.

M. Interpersonal relationships. Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of cross-age and peer relationships. Interpersonal conflict.

N. Race relations. Attitudes toward and experiences with other racial groups.

O. Concern for others. Concern for others; voluntary and charitable activities.

P. Happiness. Happiness and life satisfaction, overall and in specific life domains.

Q. Other personality variables. Attitudes about self (including self-esteem), locus of control, loneliness, risk-taking, trust in others, importance placed on various life goals, counter-culture orientation, hostility.

R. Background. Demographic and family background characteristics, living arrangements.

S. Deviant behavior and victimization. Delinquent behaviors, driving violations and accidents (including those under the influence of drugs), victimization experiences.

T. Health. Health habits, somatic symptoms, medical treatments.

Because many questions are needed to cover all of these topic areas, much of the questionnaire content was divided into five different questionnaire forms in 1976-88 and six different questionnaire forms for 1989 and beyond, which are distributed to

participants in an ordered sequence that produces virtually identical subsamples. About one-third of each questionnaire form consists of key or "core" variables that are common to all forms. All demographic variables and some measures of drug use are included in this "core" set of measures. This use of the full sample for drug and demographic measures provides a more accurate estimation on these dimensions and also makes it possible to link them statistically to all of the other measures that are included in a single form only.

Representativeness and validity

The samples for this study are intended to be representative of high school seniors throughout the 48 coterminous States. As previously mentioned, this definition of the sample excludes one important portion of the age cohort: those who have dropped out of high school before nearing the end of the senior year. But given the aim of representing high school seniors, it is useful to consider the extent to which the obtained samples of schools and students are likely to be representative of all seniors and the degree to which the data obtained are likely to be valid.

There are at least four ways in which survey data of this sort might fall short of being fully accurate. First, some sampled schools refuse to participate, which could introduce some bias. Second, the failure to obtain questionnaire data from 100% of the students sampled in participating schools would also introduce bias. Third, the answers provided by participating students are open to both conscious and unconscious distortions, which could reduce validity. Finally, limitations in sample size and/or design could place limits on the accuracy of estimates.

School participation

As noted in the description of the sampling design, schools are invited to participate in the study for a 2-year period. With very few exceptions, each school that has participated for one data collection has agreed to participate for a second. Thus far, approximately 65% of the schools initially invited to participate have agreed to do so each year; for each school refusal, a similar school (in terms of size, geographic area, urbanicity, etc.) was recruited as a replacement.

The selection of replacement schools almost entirely removes problems of bias in region, urbanicity, and the like that might result from certain schools refusing to participate. Other potential biases are more subtle, however. For example, if it turned out that most schools with "drug problems" refused to participate, that could seriously bias the drug estimates derived from the sample. And if

any other single factor was dominant in most refusals, that also might suggest a source of serious bias. In fact, however, the reason for schools' refusals to participate are varied and largely a function of happenstance events of the particular year. Thus, there is a fair amount of confidence that school refusals have not seriously biased the surveys.

Student participation

Completed questionnaires are obtained from approximately 83% of all students sampled. The single most important reason that students are missed is that they are absent from class at the time of data collection, and in most cases it is not workable to schedule a special followup data collection for them.

In addition to absenteeism, student nonparticipation occurs because of schedule conflicts with school trips and other activities that tend to be more frequent than usual during the final months of the senior year. Of course, some students refuse to complete or turn in a questionnaire. However, the SRC representatives in the field estimate this proportion to be only about 1%.

Research design for the surveys of lower grades

Beginning in 1991 the study was expanded to include nationally representative samples of eighth and tenth grade students. In general, the procedures used for the annual surveys of eighth and tenth grade students closely parallel those used for high school seniors, including the procedures for selecting schools and students, questionnaire administrations, and questionnaire formats. A major exception is that only two different questionnaire forms were used in 1991-96 and four forms were used in 1997, rather than the six forms used with seniors. Identical forms are used for both eighth and tenth grades, and, for the most part, questionnaire content is drawn from the twelfth grade questionnaires. Thus, key demographic variables and measures of drug use and related attitudes and beliefs are generally identical for all three grades. Fewer questions about lifestyles and values are included in these forms than in the twelfth grade forms, in part because it is believed that many of these attitudes are more likely to be formed by twelfth grade, and therefore are best monitored there. For the national survey of eighth graders, approximately 160 schools are sampled, and approximately 18,000 to 19,000 students are surveyed. For the tenth graders, approximately 130 schools are sampled, and approximately 16,000 students are surveyed.

Research design for the followup surveys after high school

Beginning with the graduating class of 1976, each class is followed up and surveyed each year after high school for seven followup data collections. From the approximately 15,000 to 17,000 seniors originally participating in a given class, a representative sample of 2,400 individuals was chosen for followup. In order to ensure sufficient numbers of drug users in the followup surveys, those fitting certain criteria of current drug use (that is, those reporting 20 or more uses of marijuana or use of any of the other illicit drugs in the previous 30 days) were selected with higher probability (by a factor of 3.0) than the remaining seniors. Differential weighting is used in all followup analyses to compensate for the differential sampling probabilities.

The 2,400 selected respondents from each class were randomly assigned to one of two matching groups of 1,200 each; one group was surveyed on even-numbered calendar years, while the other group was surveyed on odd-numbered years. This biannual procedure was intended to reduce respondent burden.

Followup procedures

Using information provided by respondents at the time of the senior survey (name, address, phone number, and the name and address of someone who would always know how to reach them), students selected for the panels were contacted by mail. Newsletters were sent each year, and name and address corrections were requested. Questionnaires were sent by certified mail in the spring of each year. A check for \$5.00 made out to the respondent was attached to the front. Beginning with the class of 1992, the followup checks have been raised to \$10.00 to compensate for the effects of inflation over the life of the study. Reminder letters and post cards went out at fixed intervals thereafter and finally, those not responding received a prompting phone call from the Survey Research Center's phone interviewing facility in Ann Arbor. If requested, a second copy of the questionnaire was sent.

Panel retention rates

To date the panel retention rates have remained quite high. In the first followup after high school, about 80% of the original panel returned questionnaires. The retention rate decreases ordinarily with time; however, the 1997 panel retention from the class of 1983--the oldest of the panels, now age 32 (14 years past their first data collection in high school)--is 55%.

Since attrition is to a modest degree associated with drug use, corrections to the prevalence estimates are presented for the followup panels. These raise the prevalence estimates from what they would be uncorrected, but only slightly. It is believed that the resulting estimates are the most accurate obtainable, but still low for the age group as a whole due to the omission of dropouts and absentees from the population covered by the original panels.

Validity of self-report data

Survey measures of delinquency and of drug use depend upon respondents reporting what are, in many cases, illegal acts. Thus, a critical question is whether such self-reports are likely to be valid. Like most studies dealing with these areas, there is no direct, objective validation of the present measures; however, the considerable amount of inferential evidence that exists strongly suggests that the self-report questions produce largely valid data. A number of factors suggest a reasonable amount of confidence about the validity of the responses to what are presumably among the most sensitive questions in the study: a low nonresponse on the drug question, a large proportion admitting to some illicit drug use, the consistency of findings across several years of the present study, strong evidence of construct validity (based on relationships observed between variables), a close match between these data and the findings from other studies using other methods, and the findings from several methodological studies that have used objective validation methods.

Accuracy of the sample

A sample survey never can provide the same level of accuracy as would be obtained if the entire target population were to participate in the survey--in the case of the present study, about 2.8 million seniors per year. But perfect accuracy of this sort would be extremely expensive and certainly not worthwhile considering the fact that a high level of accuracy can be provided by a carefully designed probability sample. The accuracy of the sample in this study is affected both by the size of the student sample and by the number of schools in which they are clustered. Virtually all estimates based on the total sample have confidence intervals of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points or smaller--sometimes considerably smaller.

Interpreting racial differences

Data are given for the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population--those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories

(American Indians, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, or other Latin Americans) since each of these groups comprises a small percentage of the sample in any given year, which means that their small N's (in combination with their clustered groupings in a limited number of schools) would yield estimates that would be too unreliable. In fact, even blacks--who constitute approximately 12% of each year's sample--are represented by only 350 to 425 respondents per year on any single questionnaire form. Further, because the sample is a stratified clustered sample, it yields less accuracy than would be yielded by a pure random sample of equal size. Therefore, because of the limited number of cases, the margin of sampling error around any statistic describing blacks is larger than for most other subgroups described in this survey.

There are factors in addition to unreliability, however, that could be misleading in the interpretation of racial differences. Given the social importance that has been placed on various racial differences reported in the social science literature, the reader is cautioned to consider the various factors that could account for differences. These factors fall into three categories: differential representation in the sample, differential response tendencies, and the confounding of race with a number of other background and demographic characteristics.

Differential representation--A smaller segment of the black population than of the white population of high school age is represented by the data contained here. Insofar as any characteristic is associated with being a school dropout or absentee, it is likely to be somewhat disproportionately underrepresented among blacks in the sample.

Differential response tendencies--In examining the full range of variables, certain racial differences in response tendencies were noted. First, the tendency to state agreement in response to agree-disagree questions is generally somewhat greater among blacks than among whites.

There also is a somewhat greater than average tendency for black respondents to select extreme answer categories on attitudinal scales. For example, even if the same proportion of blacks as whites felt positively (or negatively) about some subject, fewer of the whites are likely to say they feel very positively (or very negatively). In the process of interpreting racial differences, the reader should be aware that differences in responses to particular questions may be related to these more general tendencies.

A somewhat separate issue in response tendency is a respondent's willingness to answer particular questions. An exaggerated

missing data rate for black males on the set of questions dealing with the respondent's own use of illicit drugs has been observed. Clearly a respondent's willingness to be candid on such questions depends on his or her trust of the research process and of the researchers themselves. The reader is advised to check for exceptional levels of missing data when making comparisons on any variable in which candor is likely to be reduced by lower system trust. One bit of additional evidence related to trust in the research process is that higher proportions of blacks than whites indicated that if they had used marijuana or heroin they would not have been willing to report it in the survey.

Covariance with other factors--Some characteristics such as race are highly confounded (correlated) with other variables--variables that may in fact explain some observed racial differences. Put another way, at the aggregate level one might observe a considerable racial difference on some characteristic, but once one controls for some background characteristics such as socioeconomic level or region of the country--that is, comparing the black respondents with whites who come from similar backgrounds--there may be no racial difference at all.

Definitions of terms

Drug types--Definitions or identifiers used in survey forms include:

- Marijuana--pot, grass or hashish;
- Other psychedelics--mescaline, peyote, psilocybin, PCP;
- Amphetamines--uppers, pep pills, bennies, speed;
- Quaaludes--quads, methaqualone;
- Barbiturates--downers, goofballs, reds, yellows;
- Heroin--smack, horse;
- Other narcotics--methadone, opium, codeine, paregoric;
- Inhalants--glue, aerosols, laughing gas;
- Tranquilizers--Librium, Valium, Miltown.

Beginning with the 1979 survey, amyl and butyl nitrites were considered "other inhalants" for questions on one alternate survey form (N=one-fifth of total sample size in 1979-88 and N is one-sixth of total sample size in 1989-97). This was due to the fact that not all users of this subclass of inhalants were reporting themselves as inhalant users. Hallucinogen use had been similarly underestimated because some users of the hallucinogenic drug PCP do not report themselves as users of hallucinogens--even though PCP was included as an example of a hallucinogenic drug in earlier surveys and on other questions. The alternate questionnaire form contained a special set of questions about PCP, that provided other street names for it (e.g., angel dust). As a result of these definition changes, since 1979 data for

drug use in these two drug classes have been adjusted for underreporting. For more information, see the Source.

Four-year college plans--Percentage distributions are given separately for (1) respondents who indicate that they "definitely will" or "probably will" graduate from a four-year college program and (2) those who say that they "definitely won't" or "probably won't" graduate from a four-year college program. Respondents not responding are omitted from both columns. A number of those who do not expect to complete a four-year college program do expect to get some post-secondary education.

Illicit drug use: Lifetime--Percentage distributions are given separately for five mutually exclusive subgroups differentiated by their degree of involvement with illicit drugs. Eligibility for each category is defined below.

None--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated that they had not used marijuana at any time and did not report use of any of the following illicit drugs in their lifetime: LSD, other psychedelics, cocaine, amphetamines, tranquilizers, methaqualone, barbiturates, heroin, or other narcotics.

Marijuana only--This column contains data from other respondents who indicated that they had used marijuana (or hashish) but had never used any of the other illicit drugs just listed.

Few pills--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used one or more of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and who had not used heroin at all.

More pills--This column contains data from respondents who had used any of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) on three or more occasions but who had never used heroin.

Any heroin--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used heroin on one or more occasions in their lifetime.

Race--Percentage distributions are given separately for those describing themselves as "white or Caucasian" and "black or African-American." Comparable columns for the other racial or ethnic groups (Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, etc.) are not shown because of the low number of cases in each group.

Region--Percentage distributions are given separately for respondents living in each of four mutually exclusive regions of the country. The regional classifications are based on U.S. Bureau of the Census categories and are defined as follows:

Northeast--Census classifications of New England and Middle Atlantic States; includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont,

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

North Central--Census classifications of East North Central and West North Central States; includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

South--Census classifications of South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central States; includes Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

West--Census classifications of Mountain and Pacific States; includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Sex--Percentage distributions are given separately for males and females. Respondents with missing data on the question asking the respondent's sex are omitted from both groupings.

Weighted number of cases (N)--The number of cases is stated in terms of the weighted number of respondents rather than the actual number, since all percentages have been calculated using weighted cases. The actual number of respondents is about 15% higher than the weighted number for data collected in 1975, 1976, and 1977. For data collected in 1978 or later, the actual number of respondents is roughly equal to the weighted number. Weighting is used to improve the accuracy of estimates by correcting for unequal probabilities of selection, which arise in the multi-stage sampling procedures. Table 3 presents the number of weighted cases for each subgroup of the high school seniors samples.

Table 1. Sample sizes and student response rates for high school seniors

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Number of public schools	117	115	113	117	113	111	114	117	120	121	119	120	118	125
Number of private schools	17	17	16	18	19	22	23	19	18	18	20	24	21	21
Total number of schools	134	132	129	135	132	133	137	136	138	139	139	144	139	146
Actual number of participating students ^a	16,499	16,502	15,713	16,843	16,795	17,142	15,676	15,483	16,251	16,763	15,929	15,876	14,824	15,963
Student response rate (percent) ^b	83	84	83	84	83	86	86	83	84	84	84	84	83	83

^aSample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

^bThe student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

Table 2. Sample size and student response rates for eighth and tenth grades

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<u>Tenth grade</u>							
Number of public schools	107	106	111	116	117	113	113
Number of private schools	14	19	17	14	22	20	18
Total number of schools	121	125	128	130	139	133	131
Total number of participating students ^a	14,996	14,997	15,516	16,080	17,285	15,873	15,778
Student response rate (percent) ^b	87	88	86	88	87	87	86
<u>Eighth grade</u>							
Number of public schools	131	133	126	116	118	122	125
Number of private schools	31	26	30	34	34	30	27
Total number of schools	162	159	156	150	152	152	152
Total number of participating students ^a	17,844	19,015	18,820	17,708	17,929	18,368	19,066
Student response rate (percent) ^b	90	90	90	89	89	91	89

^aSample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

^bThe student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

Table 3. Weighted sample sizes in subgroups for high school seniors, by year

	Class of 1985	Class of 1986	Class of 1987	Class of 1988	Class of 1989	Class of 1990	Class of 1991	Class of 1992	Class of 1993	Class of 1994	Class of 1995	Class of 1996	Class of 1997
Total sample	16,502	15,713	16,843	16,795	17,142	15,676	15,483	16,251	16,251	15,389	15,876	14,824	15,963
<u>Sex</u>													
Male	7,776	7,261	7,912	7,861	8,156	7,862	7,617	7,582	7,582	6,918	7,293	6,806	7,269
Female	8,164	7,855	8,340	8,342	8,471	7,241	7,277	8,053	8,053	7,957	7,891	7,261	7,793
<u>Race</u>													
White	12,291	11,713	12,478	12,051	12,250	11,410	10,754	11,029	11,029	10,656	11,012	9,890	10,210
Black	1,995	1,649	1,708	2,063	2,038	1,614	1,757	2,244	2,244	1,671	1,693	1,719	2,001
<u>Region</u>													
Northeast	3,878	3,720	3,611	3,348	3,305	3,358	2,862	2,887	2,887	2,695	2,881	3,122	3,405
North Central	4,516	4,440	4,489	4,435	4,589	4,284	4,089	4,529	4,529	4,031	4,380	3,878	4,249
South	5,028	4,855	5,431	5,753	6,255	5,262	5,330	5,787	5,787	5,636	5,593	5,345	5,469
West	3,079	2,698	3,313	3,260	2,992	2,773	3,202	3,048	3,048	3,027	3,022	2,479	2,839
<u>College plans</u>													
Complete 4 years	9,448	9,291	10,465	10,774	11,108	10,245	10,402	11,339	11,339	11,064	11,396	10,954	11,226
None or under 4 years	5,770	5,277	5,135	4,822	4,889	4,332	4,089	3,813	3,813	3,424	3,351	2,746	3,342
<u>Illicit drug use</u>													
None	6,412	6,535	7,188	7,606	8,253	8,006	8,464	9,441	9,441	8,395	7,996	7,101	7,054
Marijuana only	3,449	3,125	3,514	3,605	3,374	2,901	2,657	2,523	2,523	2,854	3,255	3,254	3,835
Few pills	2,264	2,223	2,142	2,133	2,057	1,872	1,742	1,757	1,757	1,736	1,756	1,654	1,708
More pills	3,802	3,264	3,410	2,896	2,889	2,380	2,128	1,974	1,974	2,221	2,247	2,149	2,532
Any heroin	193	161	203	186	222	194	141	199	199	171	250	263	320

Note: Data for 1985-88 are based on five questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-fifth of the total sample N. Data for 1989-97 are based on six questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-sixth of the total sample N.

Appendix 8

National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Survey methodology

Note: The following information was excerpted from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population Estimates 1996* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1998), pp. 1-13; and *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1996* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1998), pp. 12, 13, Appendix A, and Appendix E. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

Survey methodology

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) is a series of annual national surveys measuring the prevalence of drug, alcohol, and tobacco product use among the American household population age 12 and older. Estimates of drug use prevalence for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States are presented.

The NHSDA is based on a stratified, multi-stage area probability sample. For 1996, 115 primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected as the first stage of sampling. Within each PSU, area segments were selected with unequal probability proportional to a composite size measure designed to overrepresent concentrated Hispanic and black neighborhoods. Dwelling units were selected from each sample segment. The target population included all civilian residents of households (including civilians residing on military installations) and non-institutional group quarters (e.g., college dormitories, homeless shelters, rooming houses) 12 years of age and older. Persons excluded from the universe include military personnel on active duty, transient populations (such as homeless people that do not reside in shelters), and residents of institutional group quarters (e.g., jails, hospitals, etc.). Data collection was continuous over the calendar year with approximately one-fourth of the sample allocated to each quarter.

Survey data were collected through personal visits to each selected residence. Introductory letters were mailed to each residence, explaining the survey prior to the interviewer's visit. Upon arrival, field

representatives conduct a short voluntary screening procedure with any resident of the household 18 years of age or older that is capable of providing information on the age, race/ethnicity, sex, and marital status of each resident 12 years of age or older. This information is used in a random selection procedure that determines whether any resident members are eligible for an in-depth interview (either one, two, or no individuals are selected). The interviewer has no control over the selection procedure. The 1996 within-household person selection probabilities were based on the race/ethnicity of the head of household and the ages of each household member. Selected individuals were then asked if they would complete a voluntary interview. NHSDA field representatives conducted the interviews using a paper and pencil questionnaire that included both interviewer-administered questions and self-administered answer sheets (for collection of sensitive information). All screening and interview responses are kept confidential.

In 1996, a total of 23,240 eligible dwelling unit members were selected for an interview; of these, a total of 18,269 interviews were completed. Response rates for screening and interviewing were 92.7% and 78.6%, respectively.

Age and race/ethnicity were the two primary correlates of drug use on which the samples were stratified. The sample design ensured adequate sample sizes for four age groups (12 to 17, 18 to 25, 26 to 34, and 35 and older) and three race/ethnicity groups. This oversampling allowed certain subgroups to be large enough to support estimation. Based on the respondents' self-classifications the race/ethnicity groups were classified as: (1) Hispanic in origin, regardless of race; (2) white, not of Hispanic origin; and (3) black, not of Hispanic origin. As defined, these groups are mutually exclusive. Those who did not identify themselves as Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, or non-Hispanic black were included in the category "other." This includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, Asians, and other groups. Separate estimates are not provided for this category because the sample size is too small.

The NHSDA surveys have used basically the same multistage area probability sample design that has been employed since the 1988 survey. This design uses a composite size measure methodology and a specially designed within-dwelling selection procedure to ensure that desired sample sizes would be achieved for subpopulations defined by age and race/ethnicity. In some survey years, oversampling was used to meet specified precision constraints for these subpopulations. Like the 1993

through 1995 NHSDAs, the 1996 NHSDA oversampled Hispanics in areas of high Hispanic concentration to reduce survey costs. Unlike the 1993 through 1995 NHSDAs, the 1996 NHSDA did not oversample cigarette smokers ages 18 to 34.

A revised questionnaire and editing procedure were introduced beginning with the 1994 NHSDA. Data for 1994, 1995, and 1996 presented in SOURCEBOOK are based on the new questionnaire; data for years prior to 1994 presented in SOURCEBOOK have been adjusted by the Source (see discussion on next page).

In addition, beginning in 1991, the survey differs from previous years in two ways: Alaska and Hawaii were included in the sample and some individuals living in group quarters (e.g., civilians living on military installations, individuals living in college dormitories, or individuals living in homeless shelters) were included.

Table 1 1996 NHSDA sample size and U.S. population, by demographic characteristics

	1996	
	Sample	Population
Total	18,269	214,047,483
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	7,774	102,927,665
Female	10,495	111,119,818
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>		
White	8,481	160,358,355
Black	4,372	24,052,967
Hispanic	4,841	20,813,157
Other	575	8,823,004
<u>Age</u>		
12 to 17	4,538	22,511,596
18 to 25	4,366	27,796,374
26 to 34	5,262	35,474,425
35 years and older	4,103	128,265,088
<u>Region</u>		
Northeast	3,148	42,234,040
North Central	3,525	51,754,891
South	7,202	74,548,663
West	4,394	45,509,888

Note: Sample size is the unweighted number of respondents in the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. Population in the United States as of July 1, 1990 is based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Development of weights

An analysis weight was calculated for each completed interview to reflect selection probabilities and to compensate for nonresponse and undercoverage. Poststratification adjustments are made to force the respondent

weight totals to equal U.S. Bureau of the Census projections for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population according to age group, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Each weight can be viewed as the number of U.S. population members that the responding sample member represents.

Adjusting for nonresponse through imputation

The prevalence estimates are based on the total sample or all cases in a subgroup, including some cases for which missing data for some recency-of-use and frequency-of-use variables were replaced with logically or statistically imputed (replaced) values. Prior to determining the completeness of a case, an editing procedure was implemented to check for inconsistencies and to determine if missing information was retrievable by using other information in the questionnaire. Logical imputation was then done to replace inconsistent, missing, or invalid data. Determination of completeness of a case was then made. To be classified as a minimally complete interview, and therefore included in the database, data on the recency of use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine had to have been provided by the respondent or logically imputed from other answers supplied by the respondent.

For some key variables that still had missing values after the application of logical imputation, statistical imputation was used to replace the missing data with appropriate valid response codes. Data still missing for recency-of-use questions (for drugs other than alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana) were statistically imputed using a technique known as "hot deck imputation." The first step in this procedure involves sorting the data file progressively using data on recency-of-use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine; age; sex; Hispanic origin; and race. The hot deck imputation procedure replaces a missing item on a particular record by the last encountered nonmissing response for that item (from a previous record) on the sorted database. The hot deck imputation procedure is appropriate for recency-of-use variables because the level of item nonresponse is low. Missing data for the frequency-of-use-in-the-past-12-months variables are statistically imputed using a logistic regression-based method of imputation. The potential for bias due to item nonresponse or imputation is minimal because item nonresponse is less than 2% for the drug use recency questions.

Sampling error and confidence intervals

In the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, as in every sample survey, there is some degree of statistical uncertainty or error. The estimates provided are subject to uncertainties of two types: nonsampling and sampling errors. Some sources of nonsampling error are recording and coding errors, nonresponse, computer processing errors, differences in respondents' interpretations of questions, and purposely false answers. Nonsampling errors cannot be quantified, however, rigorous attempts were made to minimize their occurrence through pretesting, interviewer training and evaluation, interview verification, coder training, coding verification, and other quality control measures.

Sampling errors denote the random fluctuations that occur in estimates when a sample of the population is drawn rather than conducting a complete census. Different samples drawn using the same procedures from the same population would be expected to result in different estimates. Many of these observed estimates would differ to some degree from the "true" population value and these differences are due to sampling error. Sampling errors are quantified by way of confidence intervals. Asymmetrical 95% confidence intervals were calculated for all estimated proportions and corresponding population estimates.

Regions

North Central--Includes the East North Central States--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and the West North Central States--Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Northeast--Includes the New England States--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic States--New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

South--Includes the South Atlantic States--Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; the East South Central States--Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and the West South Central States--Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

West--Includes the Mountain States--Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and the Pacific States--Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Adjustment procedures for trend data

Beginning in 1994, the NHSDA began using an improved questionnaire and estimation procedure based on a series of studies and consultations with drug survey experts and data users. When the new questionnaire was introduced in 1994, a supplemental sample was selected for use with the old methodology (i.e., a questionnaire identical to previous years). This provided the capability to assess the impact of the new questionnaire and to measure the effects of the change in methodology. Because this new methodology produces estimates that are not directly comparable to previous estimates, the 1985-93 NHSDA estimates presented in tables 3.82-3.84 were adjusted to account for the new methodology that was begun in 1994. The substance use prevalence estimates, for nearly all of the substances presented, were adjusted using a simple ratio correction factor. The simple ratio correction factor measured the effect of the new methodology, relative to the old methodology, using data from the 1993 and 1994 NHSDAs. For the remaining substances, the prevalence estimates were adjusted by using a model-based method. Similar to the ratio adjustment, this method of adjusting previous estimates models the combined effect of all measurement error differences between the new and old methodologies.